



DC
COMICS™

ANNUAL

#1

THE NEW 52!

SUPERMAN®

ACTION

COMICS



FISCH
HAMNER
LANDIS
SOOK

MEET THE
KRYPTONITE MAN!
SUPERMAN'S MOST
DEADLY FOE!

RATED T TEEN

DEC 2012

DCCOMICS.COM

VULNERABLE



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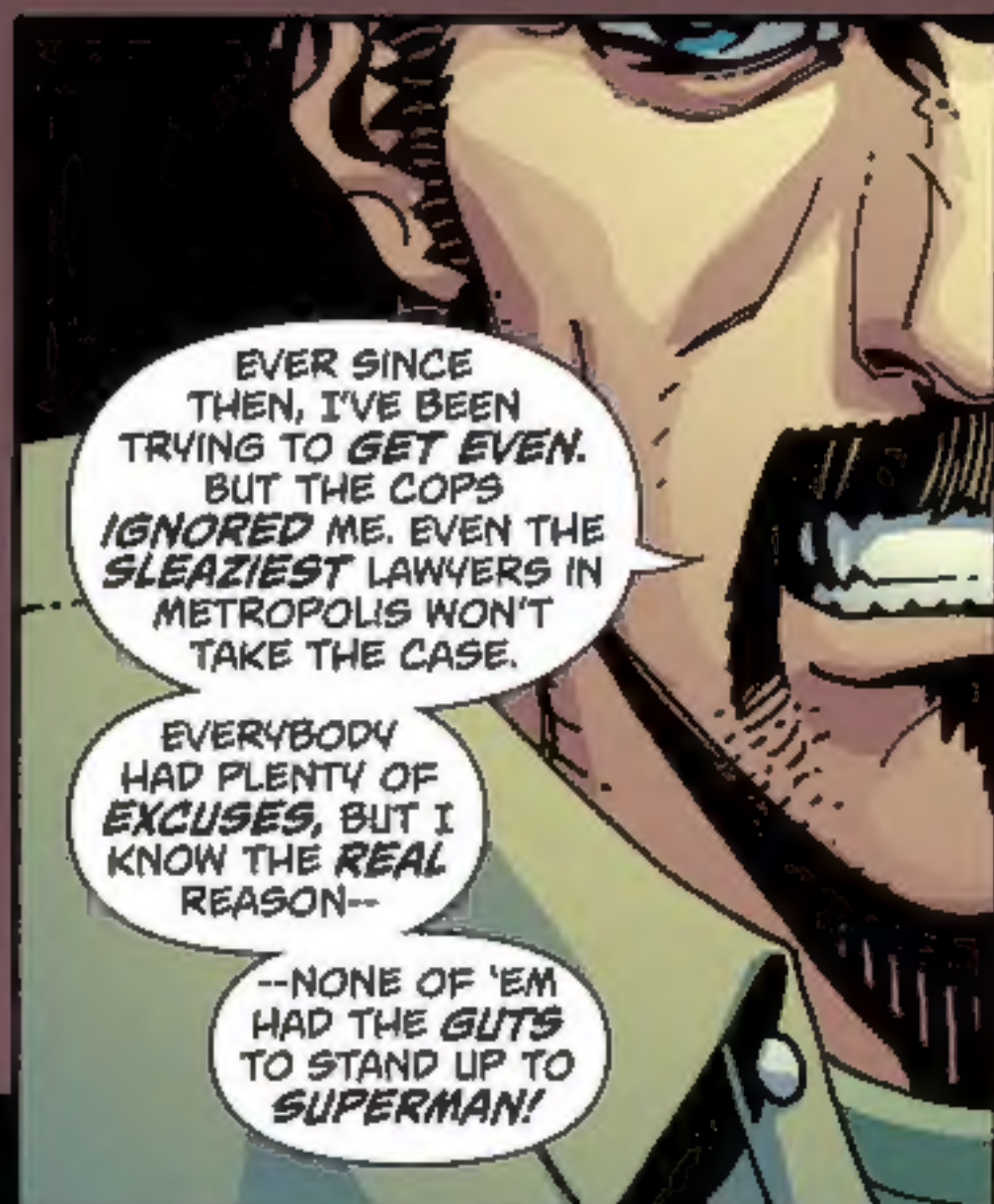
TWO WEEKS AGO.





FINE!
YOU WANT
REASONS?

SUPERMAN TOOK
EVERYTHING FROM ME!
MY HOME! MY WIFE! HE
PUT ME IN THE
HOSPITAL!



EVER SINCE
THEN, I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO GET EVEN.
BUT THE COPS
IGNORED ME. EVEN THE
SLEAZIEST LAWYERS IN
METROPOLIS WON'T
TAKE THE CASE.

EVERYBODY
HAD PLENTY OF
EXCUSES, BUT I
KNOW THE REAL
REASON--

--NONE OF 'EM
HAD THE GUTS
TO STAND UP TO
SUPERMAN!



SO NOW
I NEED TO FIND
BOPUIFS
WAY.

IS THIS
IT?

P-PERHAPS.



PROJECT K-MAN
NEEDS A TEST SUBJECT
AS WE ATTEMPT TO CREATE A
DEFENSE AGAINST SUPERMAN. IF
THE PROCESS IS SUCCESSFUL,
IT COULD GIVE YOU EVEN
GREATER POWER THAN
SUPERMAN'S.

BUT, I SHOULD
WARN YOU, THE PROCESS
IS UNTESTED. IT'S FAR
MORE LIKELY THE
PROCEDURE WILL KILL YOU.



LIKE I
CARE.

THREE DAYS AGO.

...ACROSS A
TABLE, SO SWEET,
SO COLD, AND
SO--

DOCTOR
IRONS?

WHA--?
SUPERMAN!
HOW DID
YOU--?

HOLD ON!
YOU CAN'T BE
IN HERE!
THE SUIT'S
POWER CORE--IT'S
RADIOACTIVE!

YEAH, I
KNOW.

OH.
RIGHT.



SO, UM...YOU THOUGHT YOU'D JUST **STOP BY** MY LEAD-LINED RADIATION LAB?

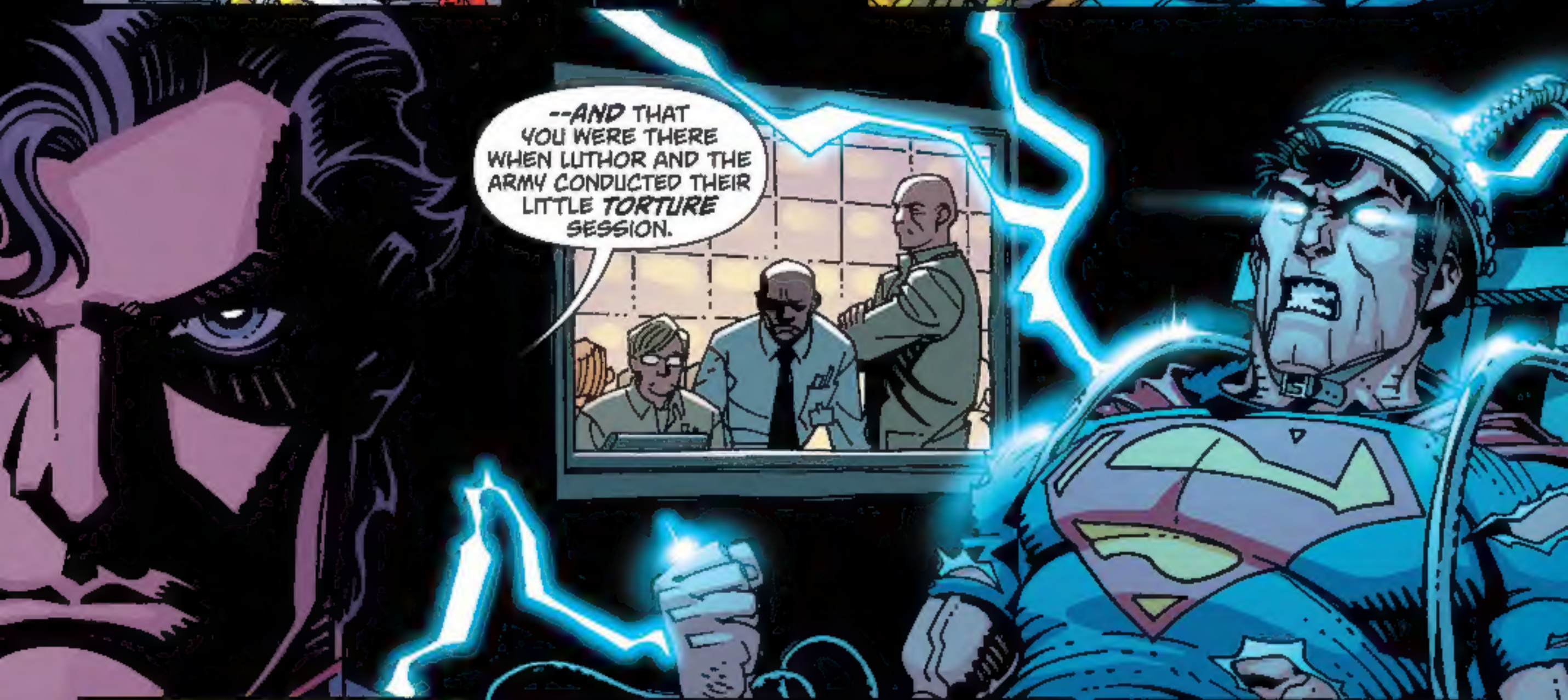
NOT EXACTLY. I WAS THINKING...

...REMEMBERING HOW YOU **HELPED** ME IN THE FIGHT AGAINST **METAL-zero**.



OH. WELL, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO COME THANK M--

BUT THEN I **ALSO** REMEMBERED THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO **BUILT** **METAL-zero**--



--AND THAT YOU WERE THERE WHEN LUTHOR AND THE ARMY CONDUCTED THEIR LITTLE **TORTURE** SESSION.



AT **FIRST**, MAYBE. BUT THAT WASN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR, SO I QUIT AND--

WAIT.



YOU MEAN...

...YOU WANT TO KNOW IF YOU, **SUPERMAN**...

...HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM ME, **JOHN HENRY IRONS**?



DO IT?



TWO DAYS AGO.



ARE YOU DEAF,
LUTHOR, OR JUST
NOT LISTENING?
YOU'RE DONE.

DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS,
SAM.

GEN.
SAMUEL LANE

THAT'S
"GENERAL
LANE."

MY
CONSULTING
CONTRACT WITH
THE DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT--

--IS
CANCELED!

COMMANDING
OFFICER



OH, PLEASE.
I DELIVERED THE
"SUPERMAN" CREATURE
TO YOU AS PROMISED. IF
YOUR PEOPLE WERE TOO
INCOMPETENT TO HOLD
HIM, THAT'S HARDLY MY
RESPONSIBILITY.



WHO'S TALKING
ABOUT SUPERMAN?!
YOU SOLD OUT THE
WHOLE PLANET!

IF I HAD ANY
HARD EVIDENCE
OF YOUR DEAL WITH
THE COLLECTOR OF
WORLDS, I'D HAVE
YOU SHOT FOR
TREASON!



WHAT A
PITY, THEN,
THAT YOU
DON'T.

I MIGHT NOT
BE ABLE TO ARREST
YOU, BUT I'M SURE AS
HELL NOT GOING TO
TRUST YOU WITH ACCESS
TO A CLASSIFIED
INSTALLATION!



SEND
THOSE M.P.s
IN HERE!



SIR?

ESCORT THIS TRAITOR OFF THE BASE, AND CONFISCATE HIS BADGE. HE WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE.



THAT'S HIGHLY DOUBTFUL. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HANDLE EXTRANORMAL THREATS LIKE "SUPERMAN" WITHOUT MY HELP.



DON'T BE SO SURE. I ALREADY HAVE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS UNDER WAY.



GOOD LUCK WITH THOSE. AS I RECALL, YOUR LAST PROGRAM PRODUCED A SUIT OF ARMOR THAT BURST ITS WEARER'S HEART THE FIRST TIME HE PUT IT ON.

VERY IMPRESSIVE.



WHEN YOU COME BEGGING ME TO RETURN, I DO HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO FIT IT INTO MY SCHEDULE--

--AT A NEW CONSULTING RATE, NATURALLY.

ONE DAY AGO.



STAY PERFECTLY STILL...

SO THAT'S THE THING THAT'S GONNA JUICE ME UP?

NOT EXACTLY. THAT MODIFIED LINEAR ACCELERATOR IS MERELY THE DELIVERY SYSTEM. THE "JUICE" WILL COME--



--FROM THIS.

WHAT, THAT LITTLE CRYSTAL? IS THIS A JOKE?

DON'T CONFUSE SIZE WITH POWER.

THIS SHARD WAS TAKEN FROM AN INCREDIBLE POWER SOURCE THAT PROPELLED AN ALIEN ROCKET ACROSS GALAXIES-- APPARENTLY FROM THE SAME PLANET AS SUPERMAN HIMSELF.

MY EMPLOYER CALLS IT "KRYPTONITE."



THE PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLE. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, THIS MACHINE WILL SLOWLY IRRADIATE THE CELLS OF YOUR BODY UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

IN THEORY, BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE, THE PROCESS WILL **SUPERCHARGE** YOUR CELLS TO A DEGREE EVEN GREATER THAN SUPERMAN'S.

HEY! DOC! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

DON'T WORRY, I'M JUST GOING TO THE SHIELDED CONTROL ROOM NEXT DOOR.

THE IDEA IS TO IRRADIATE *YOUR* CELLS, NOT MINE.



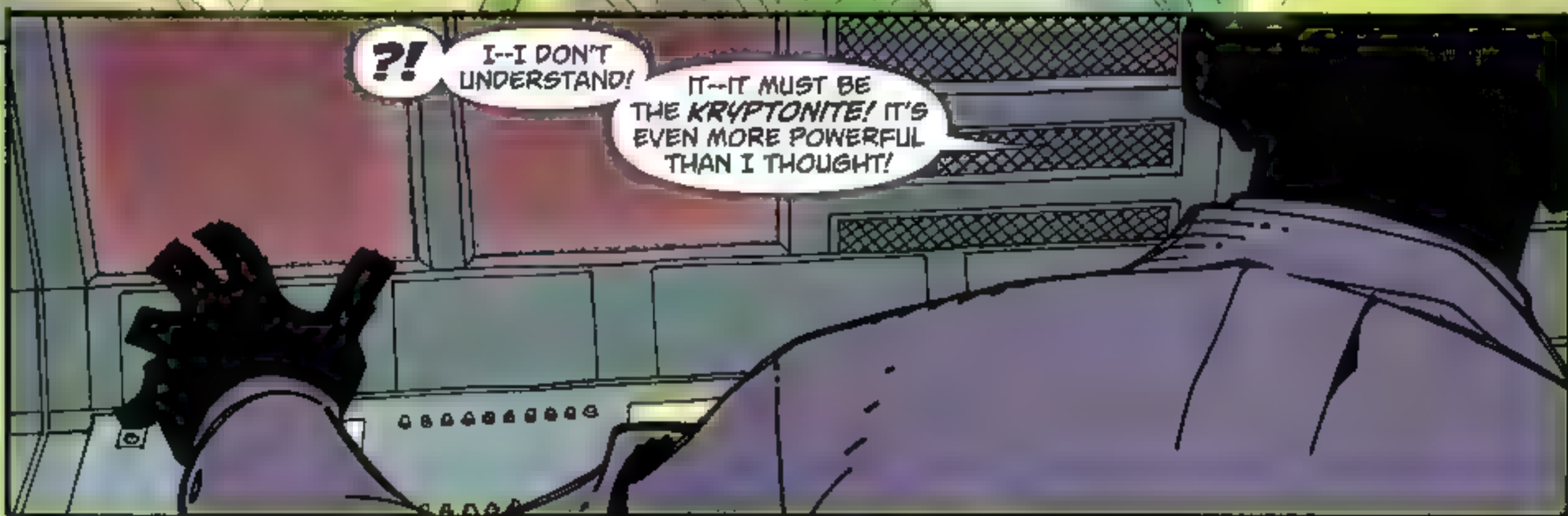


THIS IS JUST THE *FIRST* TREATMENT, SO WE'LL KEEP IT *MILD* UNTIL YOU BUILD UP A TOLERANCE.

READY? HERE GOES. ONE, TWO...

...THREE!

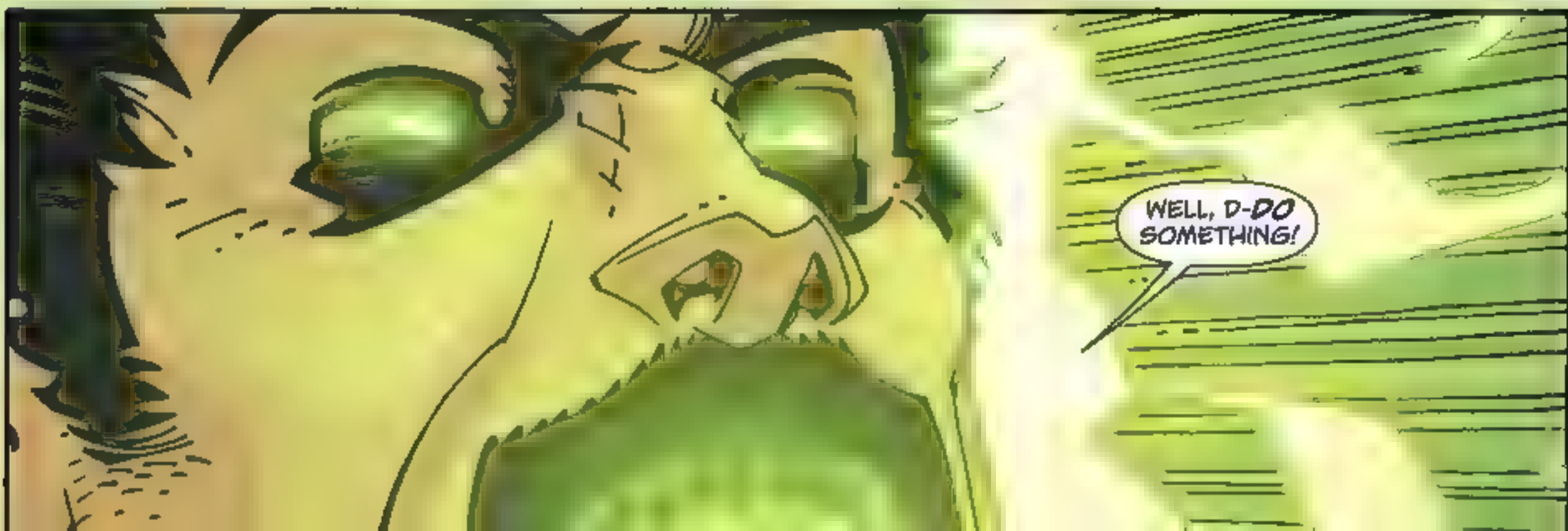
YEEEAARRRRGGGHHH!



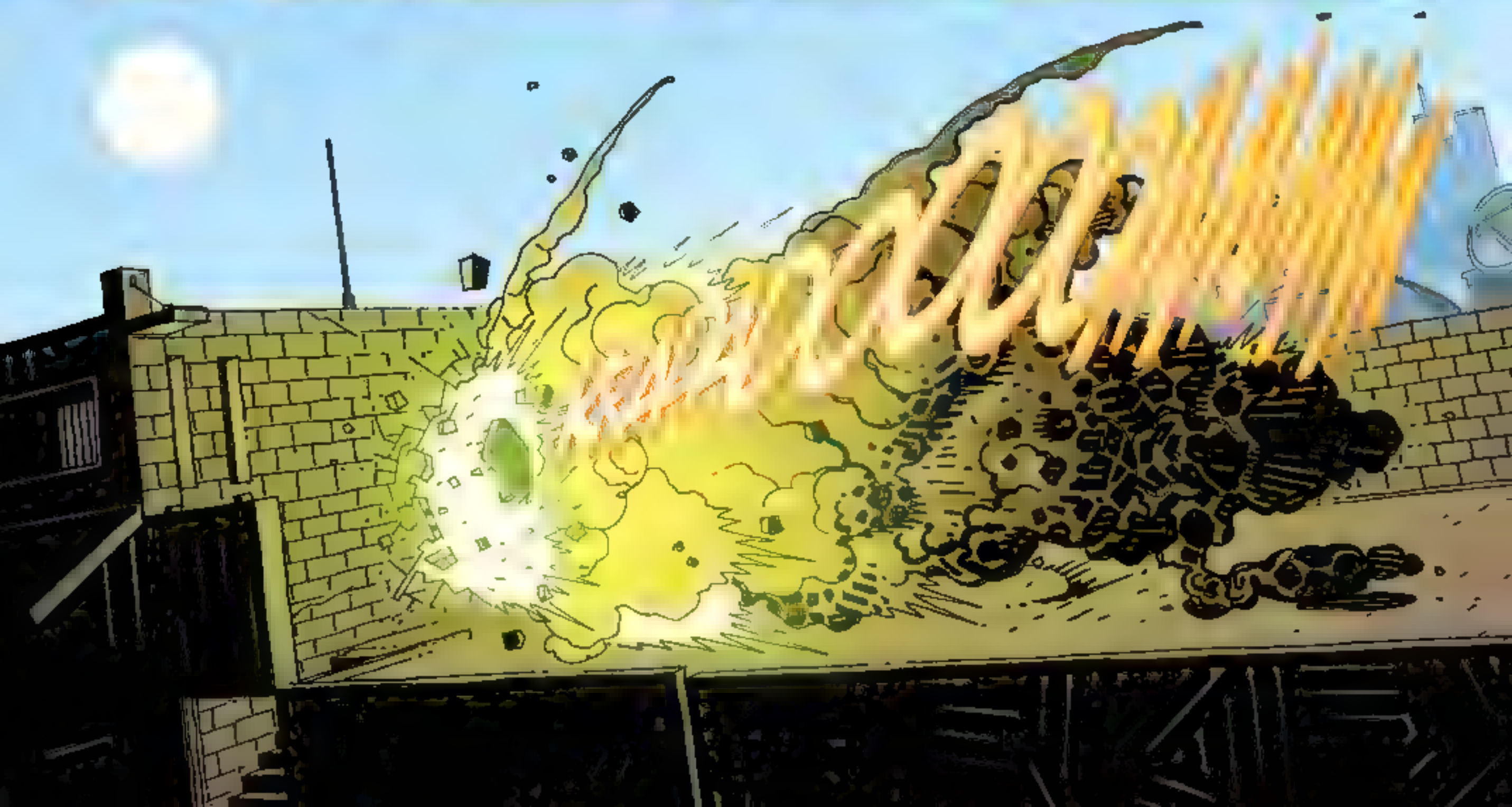
?!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

IT--IT MUST BE THE *KRYPTONITE*! IT'S EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT!



WELL, D-DO SOMETHING!



FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.

HELP ME!
SOMEBODY
HELP!

...COMING
TO YOU LIVE
FROM DOWNTOWN
METROPOLIS--

--WHERE A CRANE COLLAPSE THREATENS THE
LIFE OF THE HELPLESS CONSTRUCTION WORKER
TRAPPED INSIDE, NOT TO MENTION
COUNTLESS PASSERSBY.

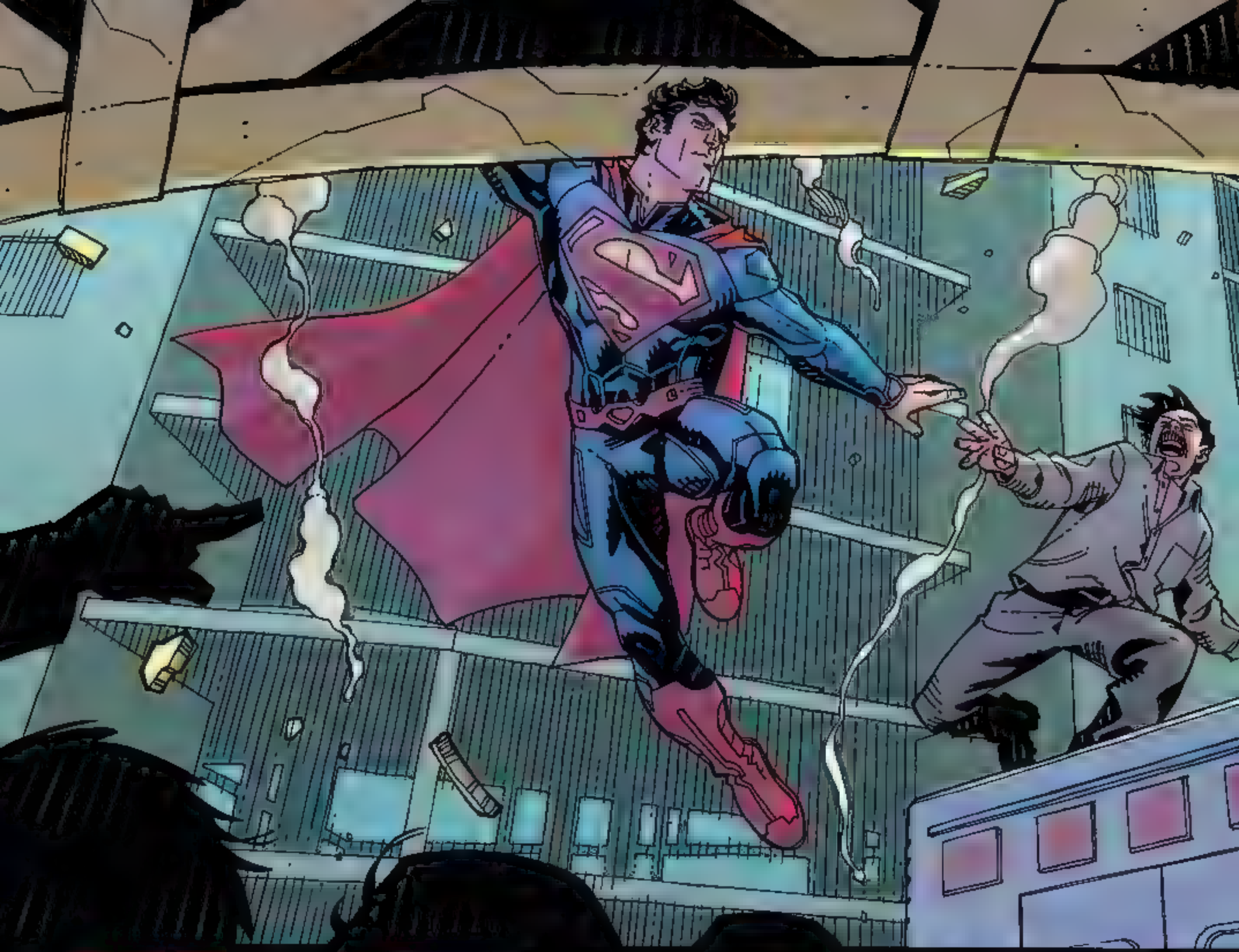
LET'S GO,
JIMMY! YOU CAN
GET A BETTER
SHOT FROM
CLOSER UP!

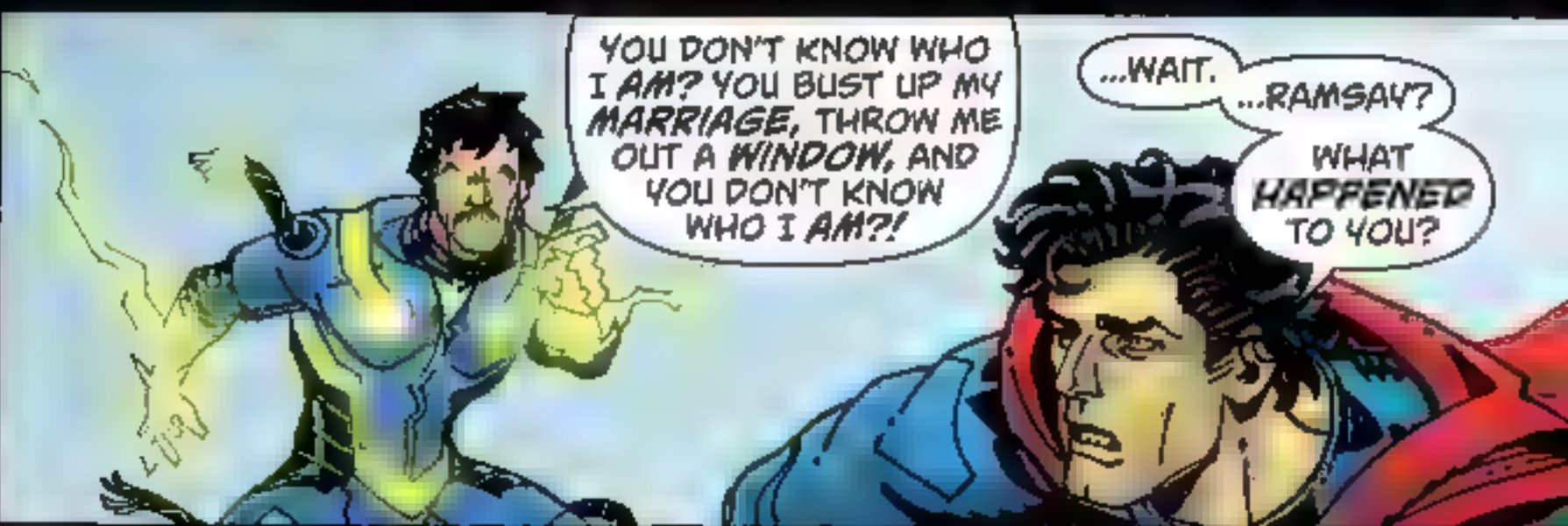
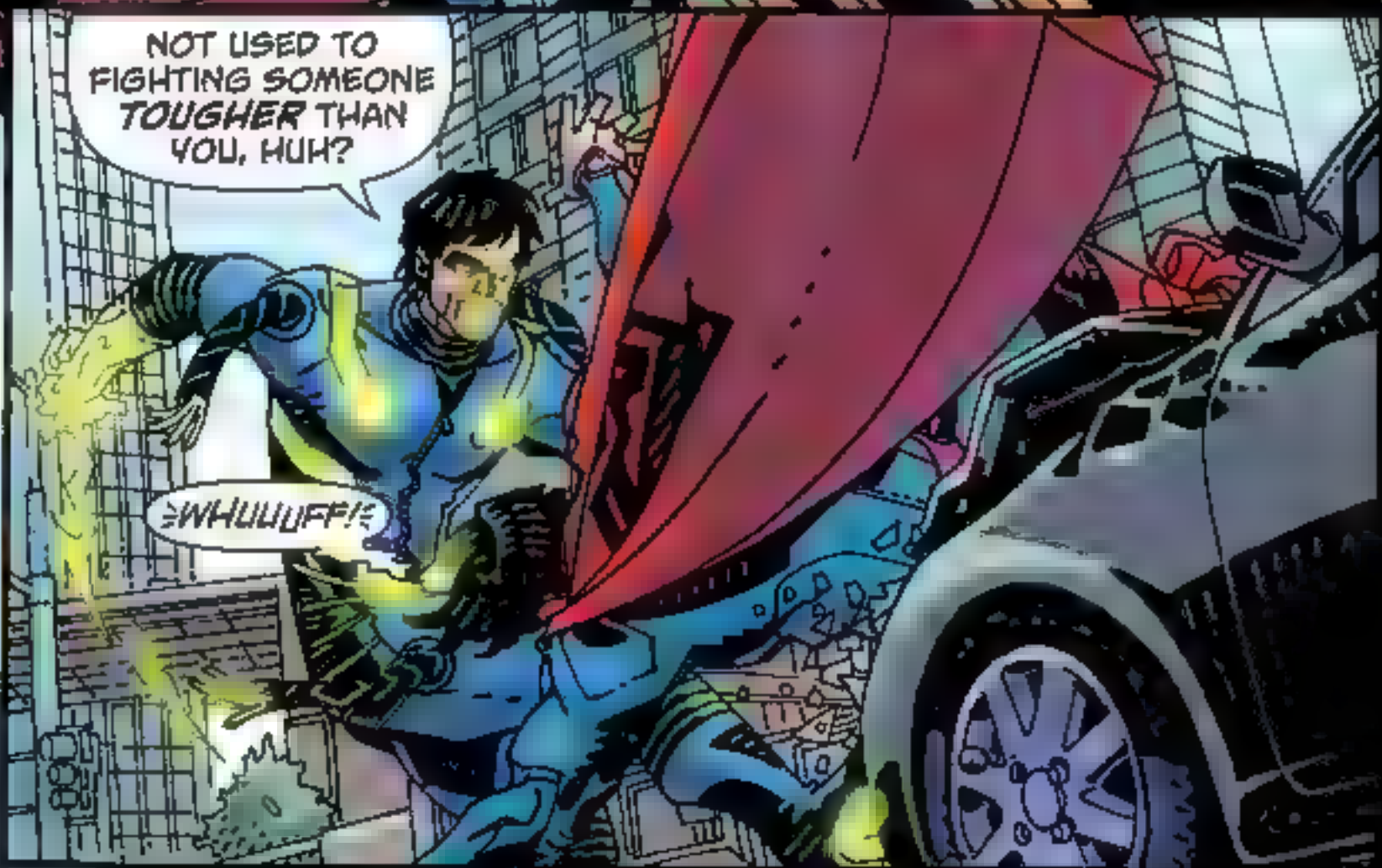
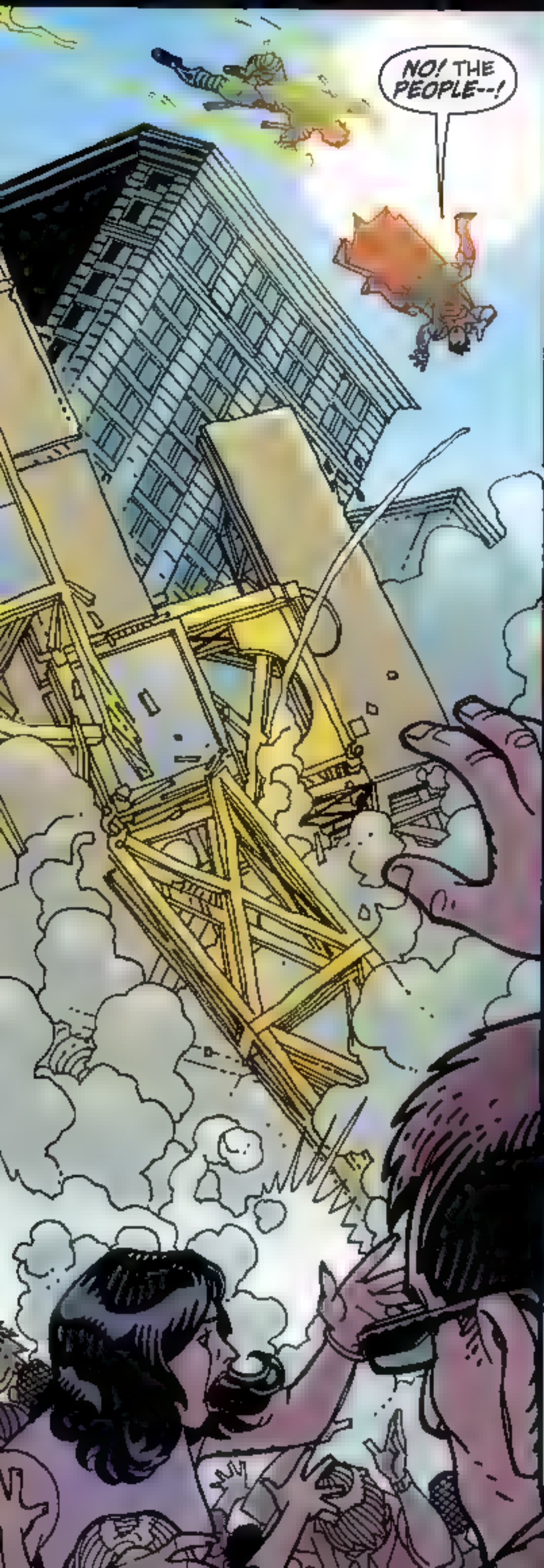
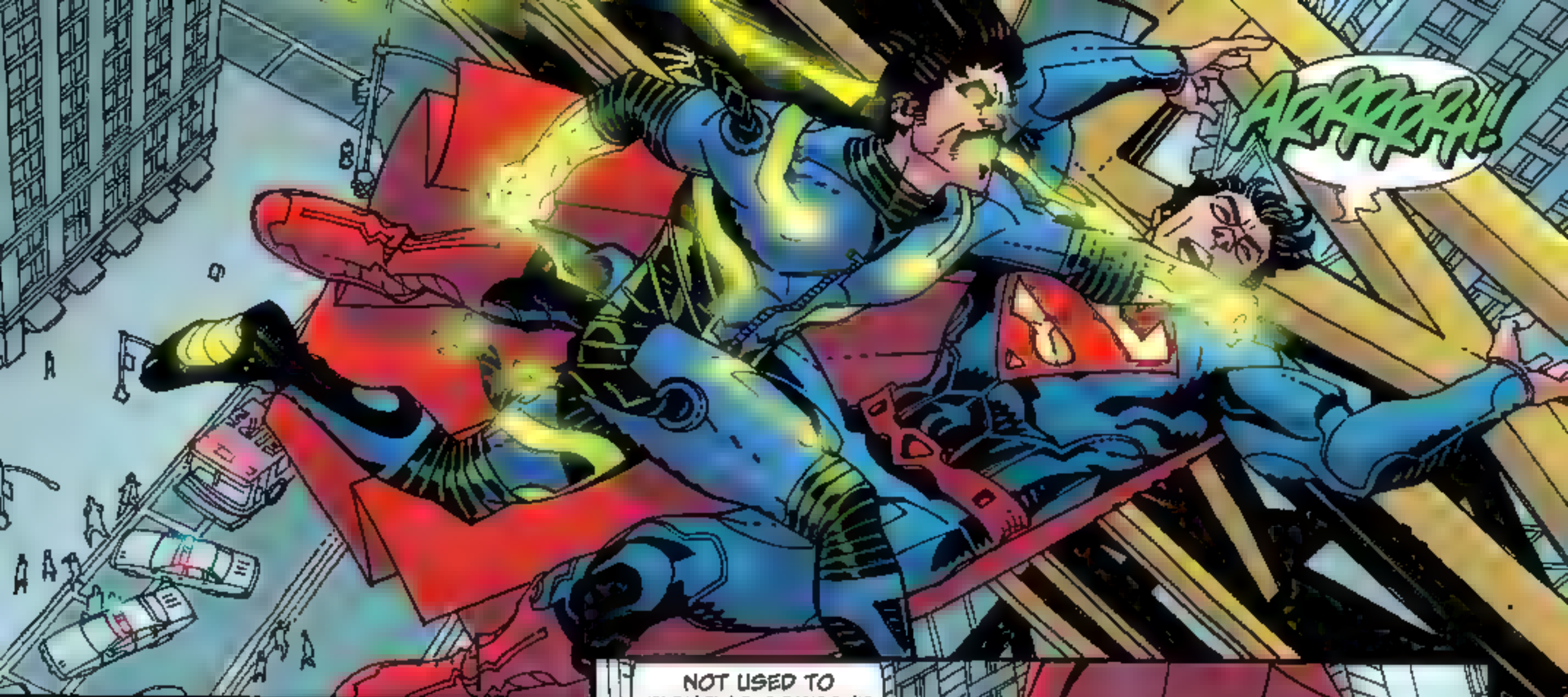
SURE, LOIS,
WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY GO
WRONG WITH
THAT?

MAYBE
WE CAN EVEN
FIND A WAY
TO HELP.

GIMME A
BREAK. YOU'RE
STARTING TO SOUND
LIKE CLARK! IF WE
CAN JUST--

UH-OH.







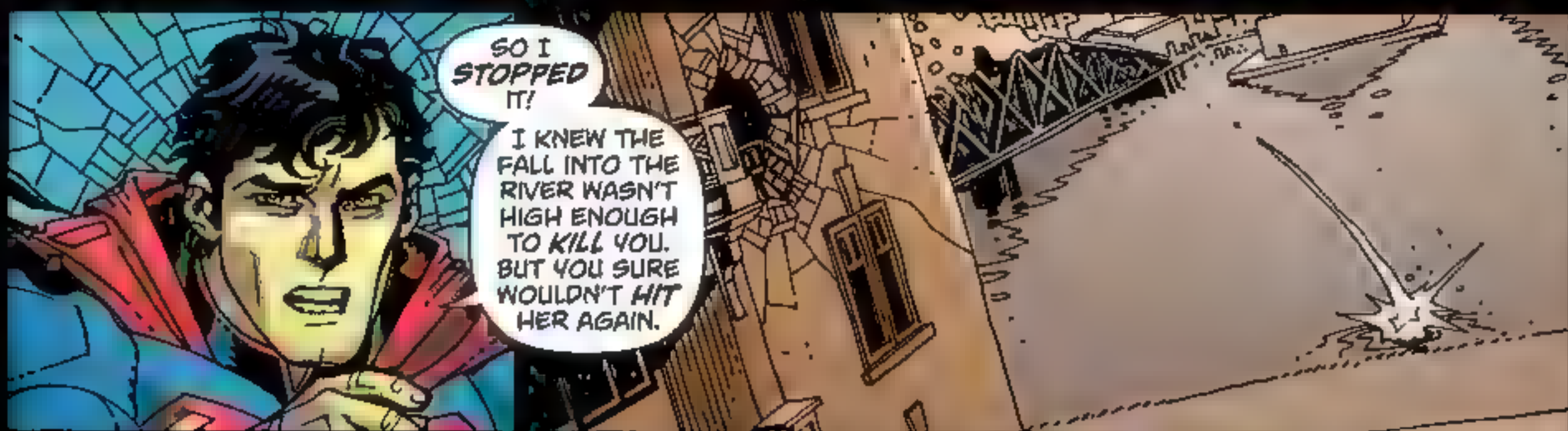
YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT, CLAY RAMSAY--
BUT NOW THEY CALL
ME K-MAN!

I'VE GOT POWER
OF MY OWN THIS TIME!
ENOUGH FOR PAYBACK
FOR BUSTING MY LEGS!
FOR STEALING
MY WIFE!



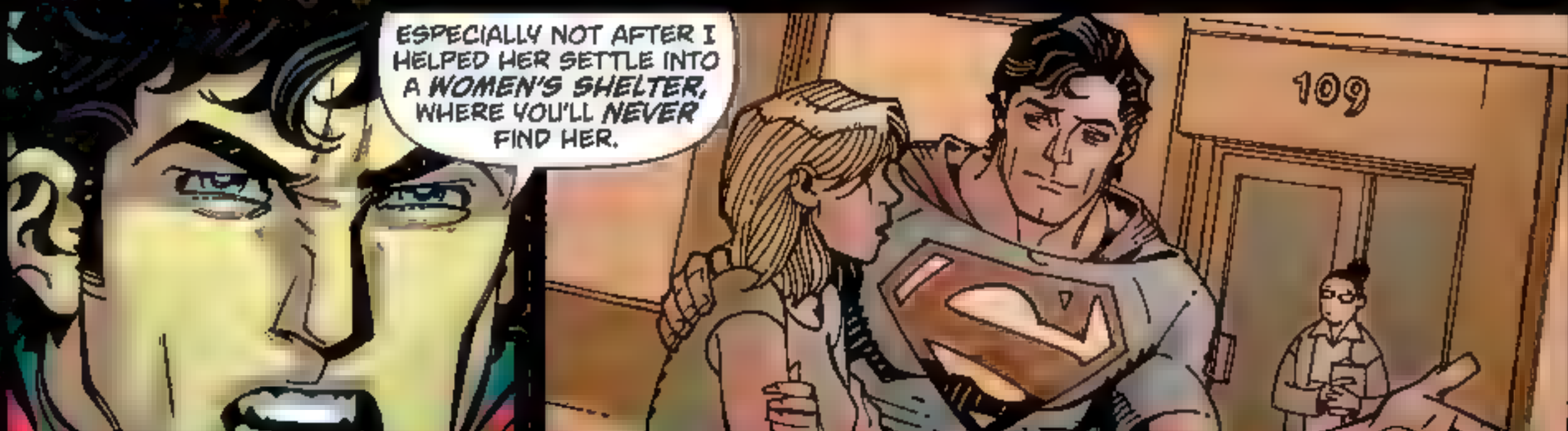
"STEALING
YOUR WIFE"?
YOU WERE
BEATING
HER!

YOU'D
BEEN DOING
IT FOR
YEARS!



SO I
STOPPED
IT!

I KNEW THE
FALL INTO THE
RIVER WASN'T
HIGH ENOUGH
TO KILL YOU.
BUT YOU SURE
WOULDN'T HIT
HER AGAIN.



ESPECIALLY NOT AFTER I
HELPED HER SETTLE INTO
A WOMEN'S SHELTER,
WHERE YOU'LL NEVER
FIND HER.



YOU
SELF-RIGHTEOUS
SON OF A--SHE
WAS MY WIFE!

SHE WAS
TERRIFIED
OF YOU!

YOU HAD
NO RIGHT!

I HAD A
RESPONSIBILITY!



**I LOVE
HER!**



WHAT--WHAT'S HE DOING TO SUPERMAN?!

STAY BACK! IT'S A BATTLEFIELD OUT THERE!



HOW...?



HEH.

LOOKS LIKE CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY THIS YEAR.

TELL ME WHERE MY WIFE IS, AND I'LL FINISH YOU QUICKLY.



N-NOT A CHANCE! NO M-MATTER WHAT ENNGHE HAPPENS TO ME--

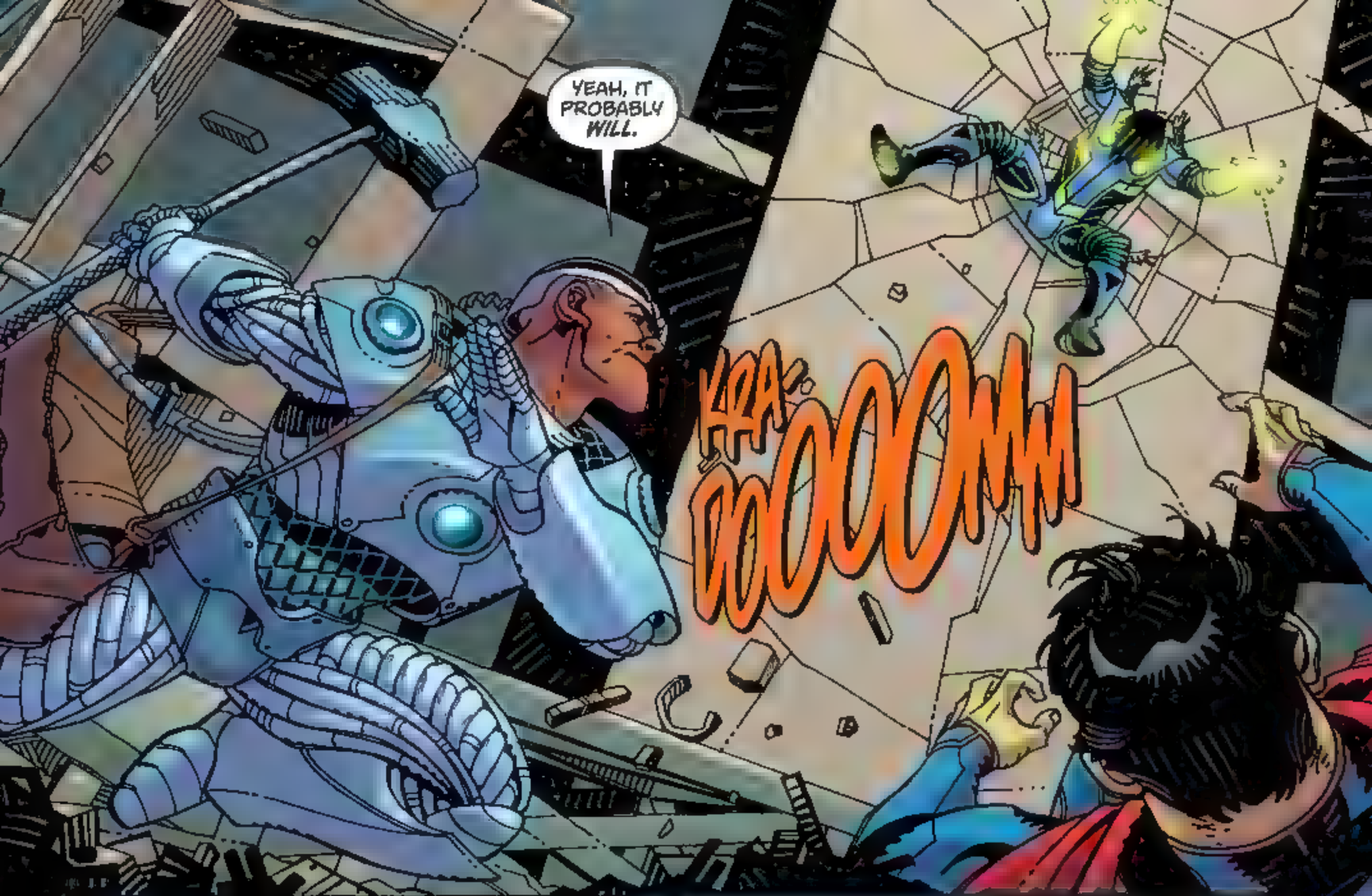
--SHE'LL BE SAFE FROM YOU!



STUPID CHOICE. NOW THIS--

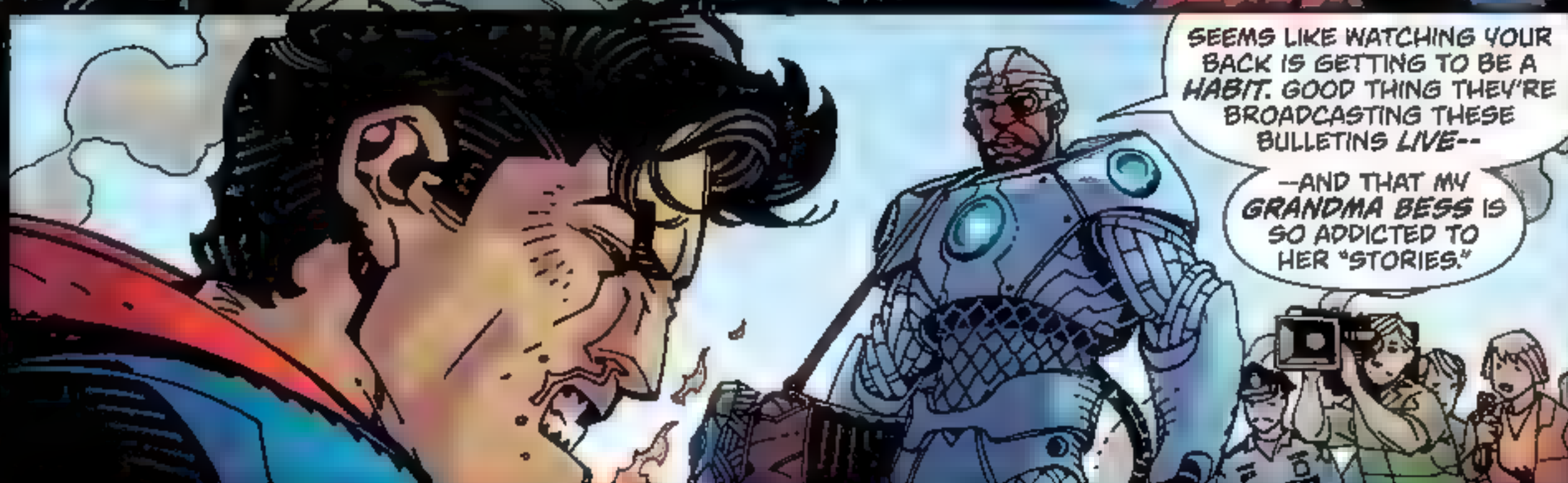


--THIS IS GONNA HURT.



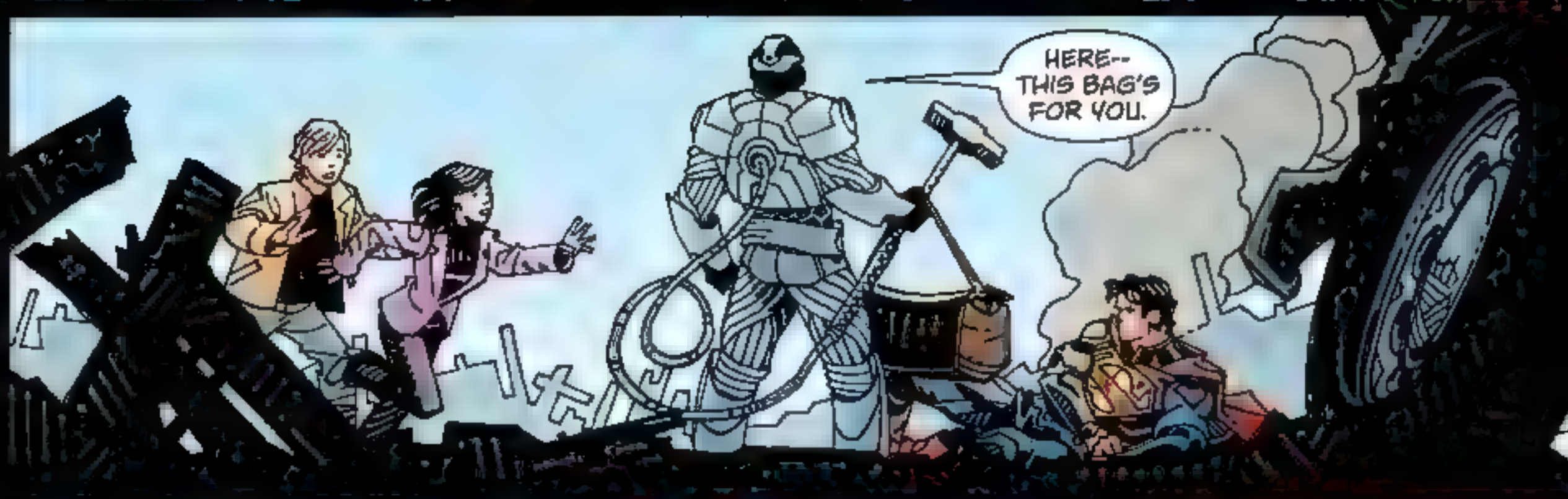
YEAH, IT
PROBABLY
WILL.

KRA-
BOOM!

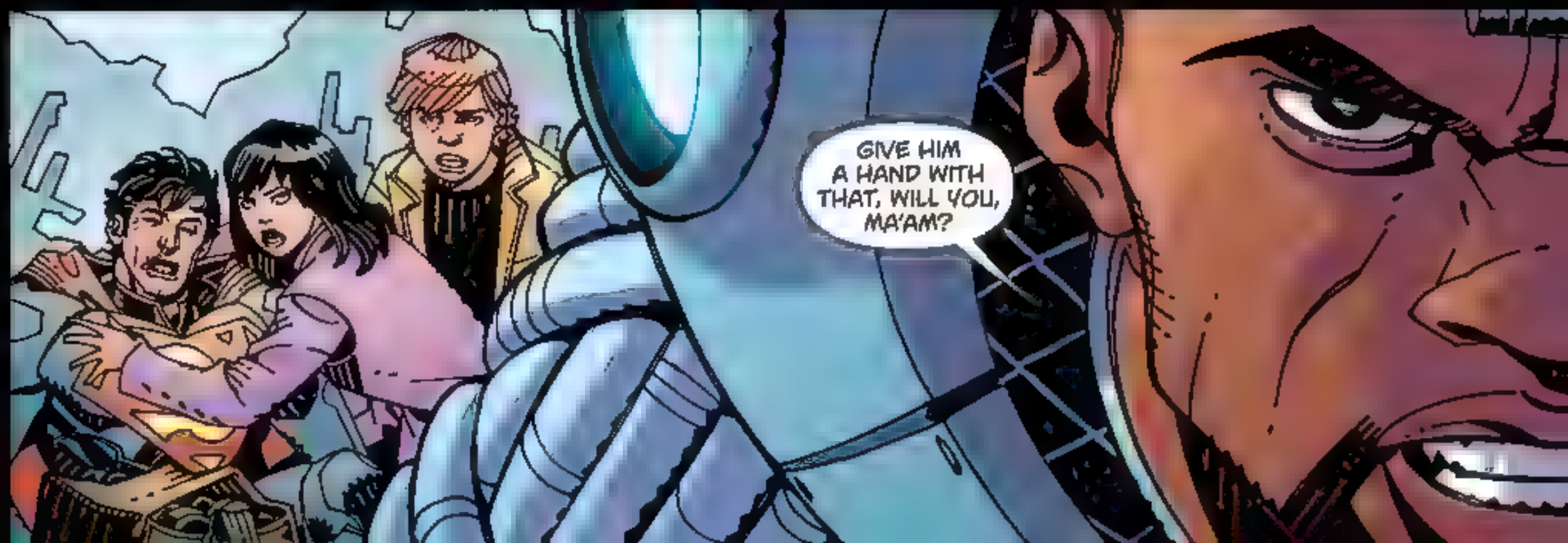


SEEMS LIKE WATCHING YOUR
BACK IS GETTING TO BE A
HABIT. GOOD THING THEY'RE
BROADCASTING THESE
BULLETINS LIVE--

--AND THAT MY
GRANDMA BESS IS
SO ADDICTED TO
HER "STORIES."



HERE--
THIS BAG'S
FOR YOU.

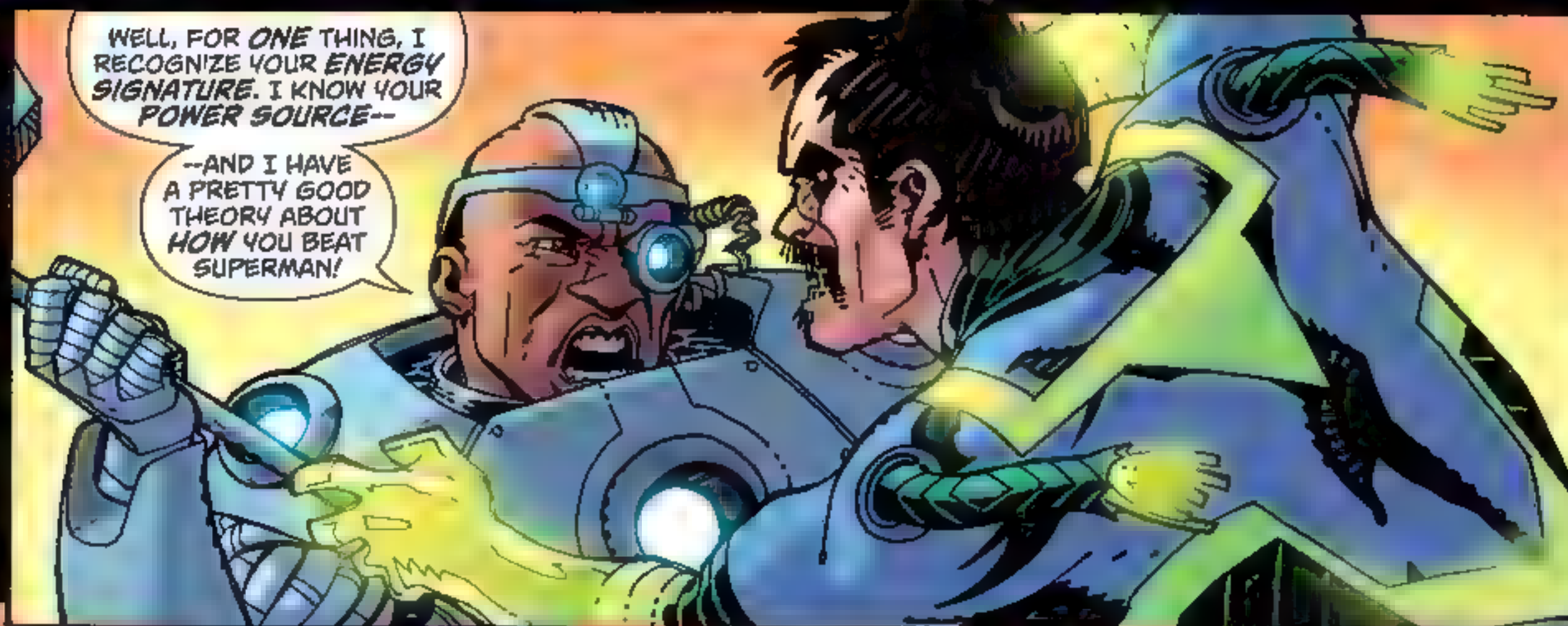


GIVE HIM
A HAND WITH
THAT, WILL YOU,
MA'AM?



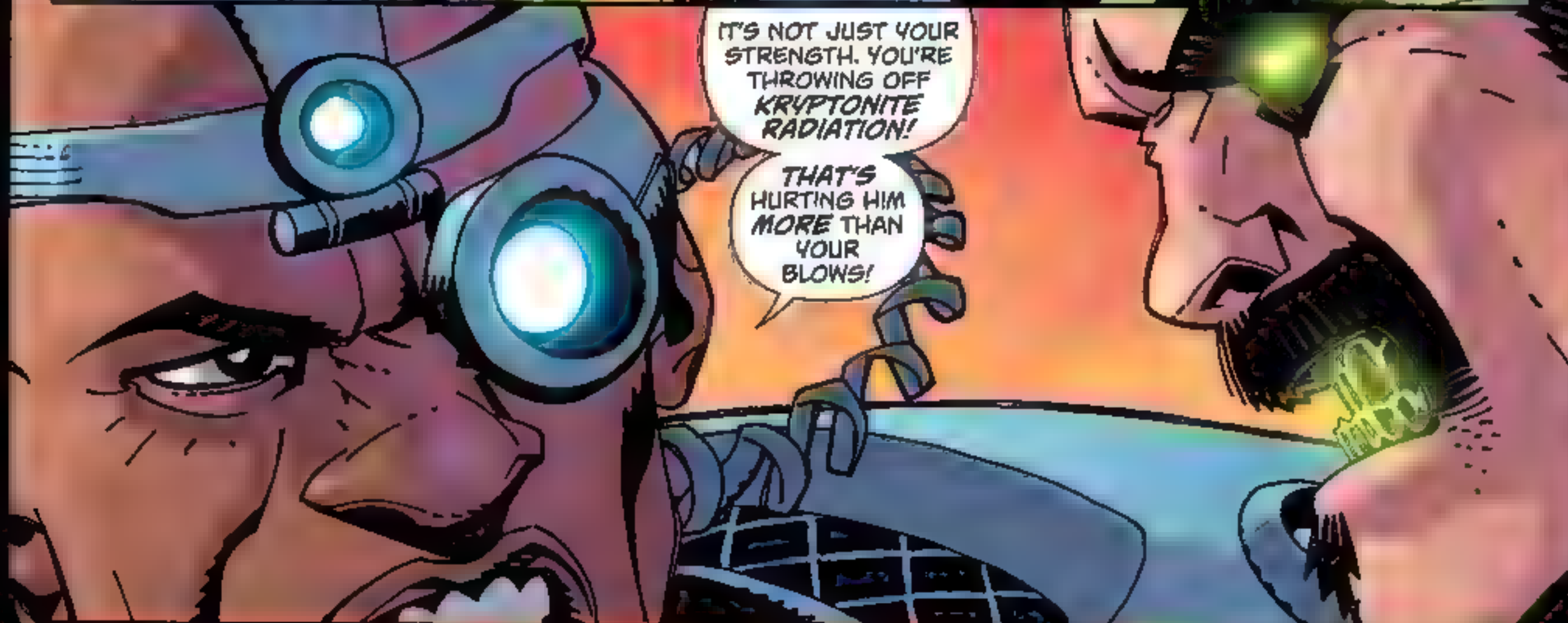
WHAT, NOW THE
SECOND STRING
WANTS A PIECE OF
ME TOO?

WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU'VE GOT
THAT **SUPERMAN**
DOESN'T?



WELL, FOR ONE THING, I
RECOGNIZE YOUR **ENERGY**
SIGNATURE. I KNOW YOUR
POWER SOURCE--

--AND I HAVE
A PRETTY GOOD
THEORY ABOUT
HOW YOU BEAT
SUPERMAN!




IT'S NOT JUST YOUR
STRENGTH. YOU'RE
THROWING OFF
KRYPTONITE
RADIATION!

THAT'S
HURTING HIM
MORE THAN
YOUR
BLOWS!



THINK
YOU'RE
SMART,
HUH?

KRAK

A comic book page featuring Lex Luthor in his iconic blue and silver armor. In the top panel, Lex is being punched in the chest by Superman, who is wearing his blue and red suit. Lex is screaming in pain. In the middle panel, Lex looks shocked and disoriented, while Superman looks on with a determined expression. In the bottom panel, Lex is lying on the ground, looking up at Superman with a mix of awe and fear. The background is a dark, industrial setting with various mechanical parts and a red vehicle.

WELL, YOU
HAD TO BE
PRETTY *STUPID*
TO THINK YOU
COULD TAKE
ME!

OH, I
DIDN'T THINK
THAT.

HUH?

YOU'RE
STRONGER THAN
SUPERMAN. I
COULDN'T BEAT
YOU HEAD TO
HEAD.

BUT
I COULD
BUY SOME
TIME.

YEAH,
RIGHT.

FOR
WHAT?



FOR THAT.

THOOO



YOU
OKAY?

I, UH,
THINK I'LL
LET YOU
TAKE OVER
NOW.

THANKS
FOR THE
SUIT.

IT LOOKS
GOOD ON
YOU.



NOW,
LET'S TRY
THIS--



YEAH? THAT'S
THE BEST PLAN
YOU COULD COME
UP WITH?



--WITHOUT
YOUR
RADIATION!

YOUR ONLY
PROTECTION IS
THIS FLIMSY
PIECE OF
CLOTH--



RRRRRIIIIIIPPPPP

--AND
NOW, NOT
EVEN
THAT!



HOW'S
THIS FEEL?



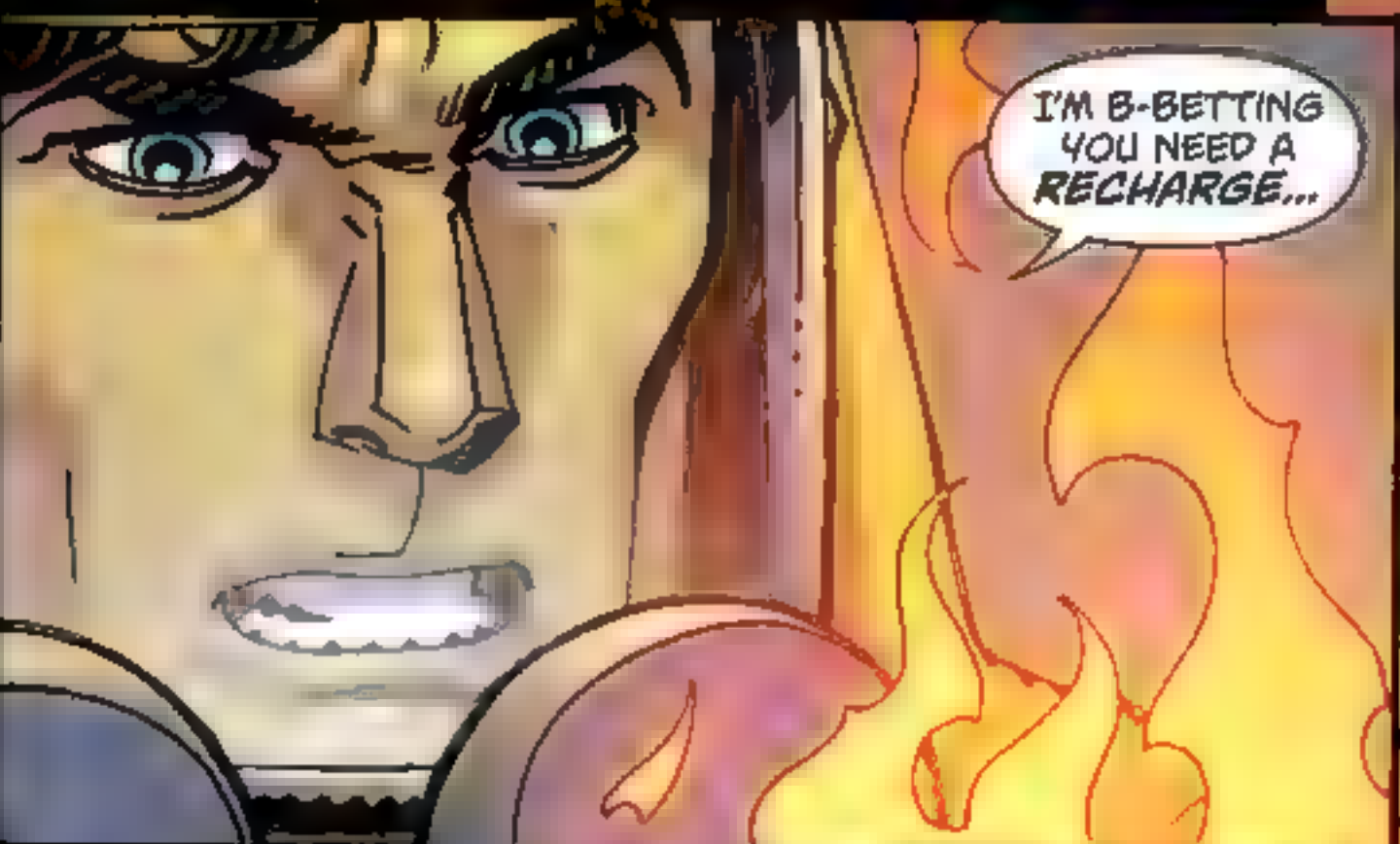
HONESTLY?

IT'S L-LIKE
WHITE-HOT
NEEDLES...IN MY
BLOOD...

...BUT NOT
NEARLY AS
B-BAD...AS
BEFORE...



IT MUST'VE
TAKEN A L-LOT
OF ENERGY TO...
BLAST ME WITH
RADIATION...



I'M B-BETTING
YOU NEED A
RECHARGE...



...BUT
YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO GET
ONE!



NICE.

MM.

HOPE YOU
DON'T MIND IF
I SIT DOWN
NOW.



YEAH. *≡WHOOOFF≡*

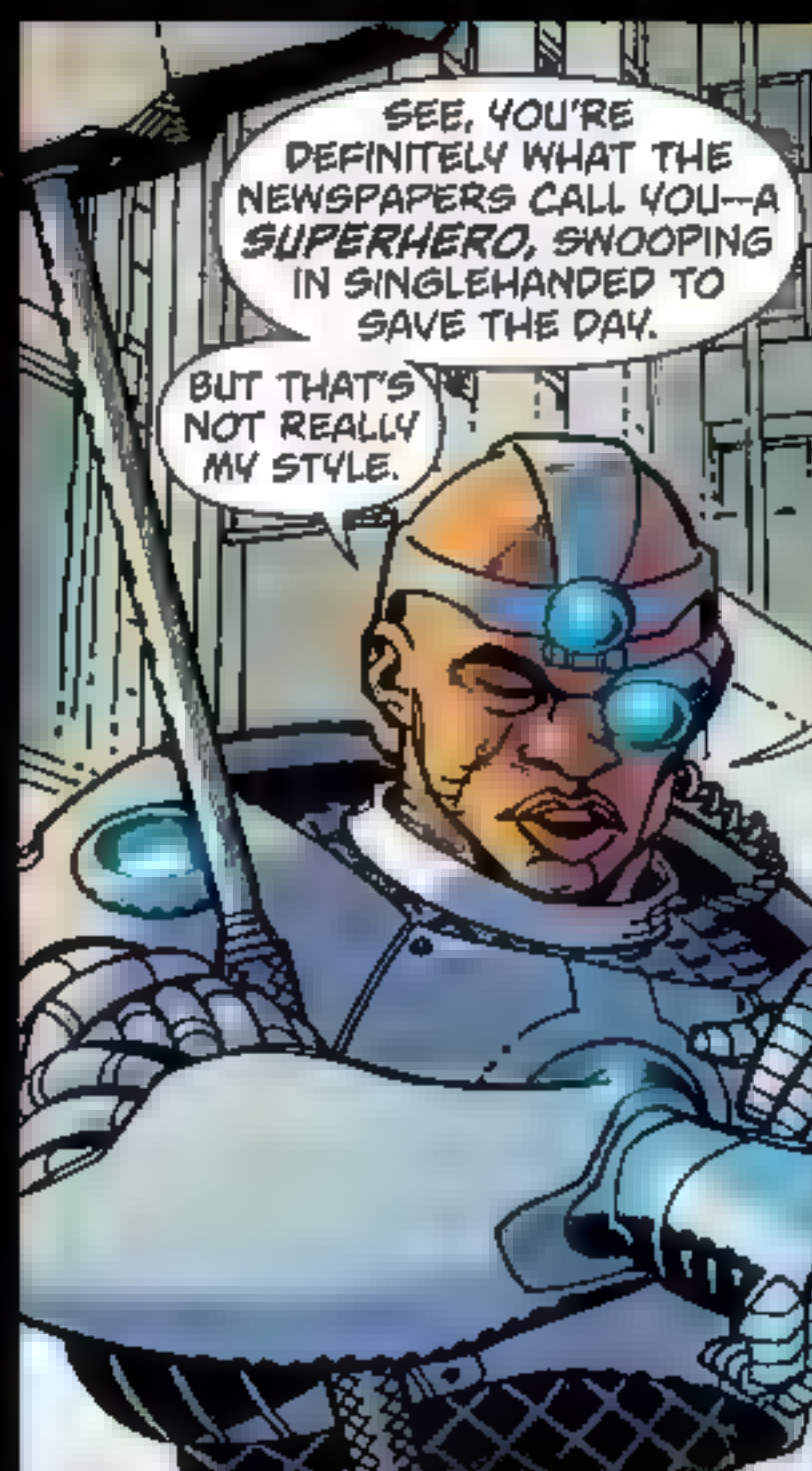
I WOULDN'T
MIND A BREATHER
MYSELF.

THANKS FOR THE *HELP*
BACK THERE. THAT'S
ANOTHER ONE I
OWE YOU.

LOOKS LIKE
METROPOLIS HAS
TWO PROTECTORS
NOW. YOU'LL HAVE TO
CALL YOURSELF
SOMETHING.

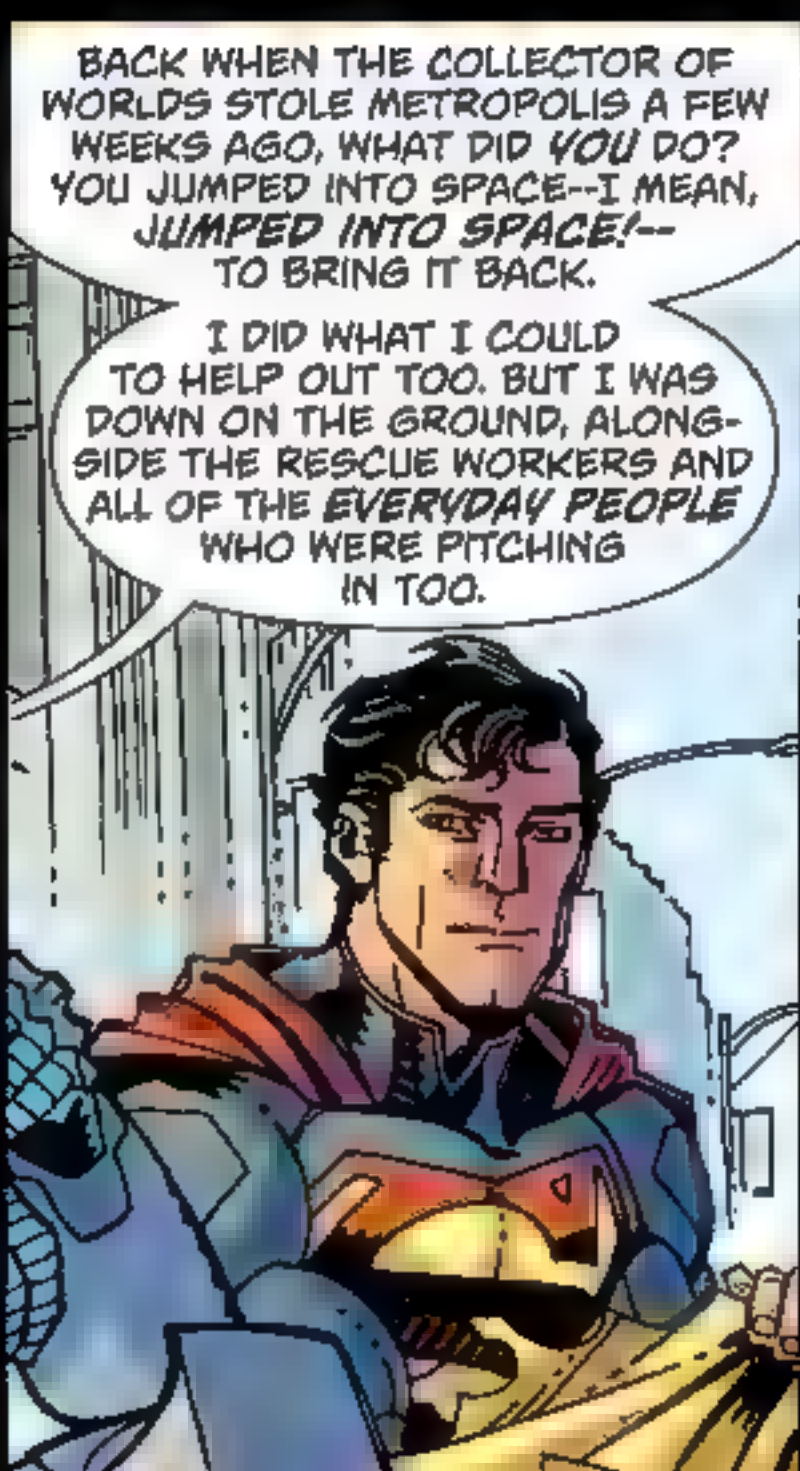


NO, I DON'T
THINK SO.



SEE, YOU'RE
DEFINITELY WHAT THE
NEWSPAPERS CALL YOU--A
SUPERHERO, swooping
IN SINGLEHANDED TO
SAVE THE DAY.

BUT THAT'S
NOT REALLY
MY STYLE.



BACK WHEN THE COLLECTOR OF
WORLDS STOLE METROPOLIS A FEW
WEEKS AGO, WHAT DID *YOU* DO?
YOU JUMPED INTO SPACE--I MEAN,
JUMPED INTO SPACE!--
TO BRING IT BACK.

I DID WHAT I COULD
TO HELP OUT TOO. BUT I WAS
DOWN ON THE GROUND, ALONG-
SIDE THE RESCUE WORKERS AND
ALL OF THE *EVERYDAY* PEOPLE
WHO WERE PITCHING
IN TOO.



IT GAVE
ME AN
IDEA--

--TO BE
MY OWN
KIND OF
HERO.

STEELWORKS



"STEELWORKS"?

MY NEW
STARTUP. A **SOCIALLY
RESPONSIBLE TECH**
COMPANY.

I FIGURE
I'LL TRAVEL THE
WORLD FOR A
WHILE--

--BRING MY
TECHNOLOGY TO THE
NEEDEST PLACES ON
EARTH, AND SEE WHAT I
CAN DO TO HELP PEOPLE
HELP THEMSELVES.

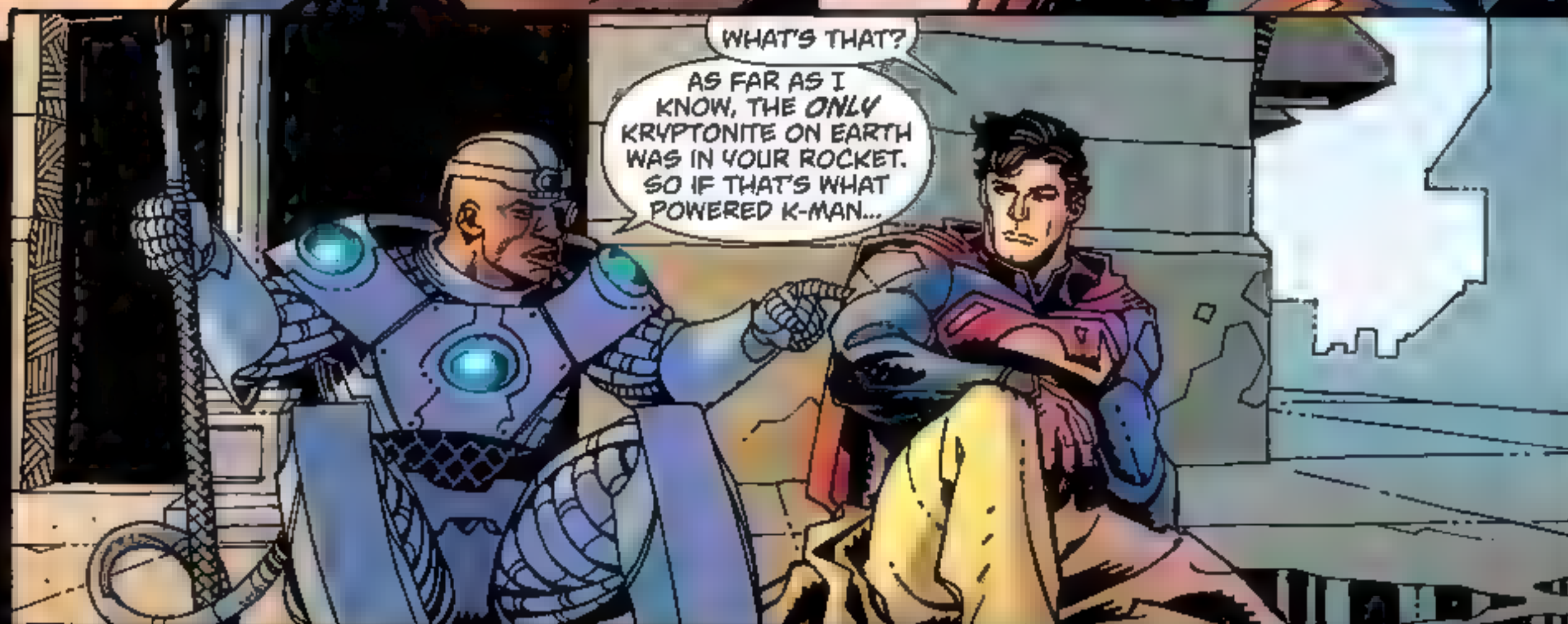
JUST LIKE I
HELPED PEOPLE
IN METROPOLIS
WHEN THEY
NEEDED IT.

JUST LIKE
I HELPED
YOU.

WOW,
THAT'S REALLY...
GREAT.

GUESS
I DON'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT YOU,
HUH?

HA. YOU
MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING ELSE
TO WORRY ABOUT,
THOUGH.



WHAT'S THAT?

AS FAR AS I
KNOW, THE **ONLY**
KRYPTONITE ON EARTH
WAS IN YOUR ROCKET.
SO IF THAT'S WHAT
POWERED K-MAN...

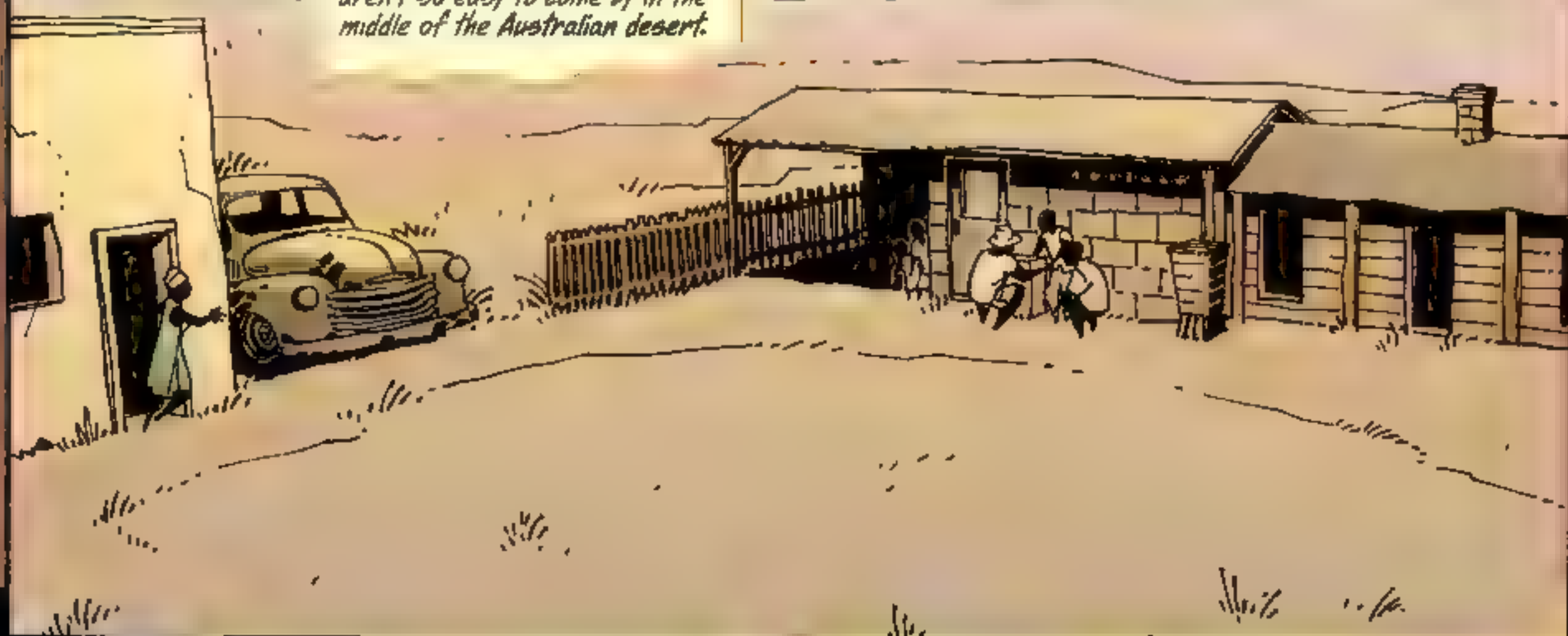


--WHERE
DID HE GET
IT?

I DON'T
KNOW...

...BUT I KNOW
JUST THE PERSON
TO DO SOME
DIGGING.

Dear Natasha,
Sorry, I know how you feel about
snail mail. But wireless signals
aren't so easy to come by in the
middle of the Australian desert.




Training sessions with the local
Anangu have been going great.
We're well on the way to rigging up
the whole village for solar power.

The villagers may
be too poor to buy
electricity from the
power company,
especially this far
off the grid—




--but they always
have plenty of sun.




I've been learning so much from them too--like their traditional techniques for environmental sustainability.

It's already sparked ideas for some new tech applications that I'm dying to try out.




Not to mention I'm learning to play a mean didgeridoo.

Richard Feynman would be proud.

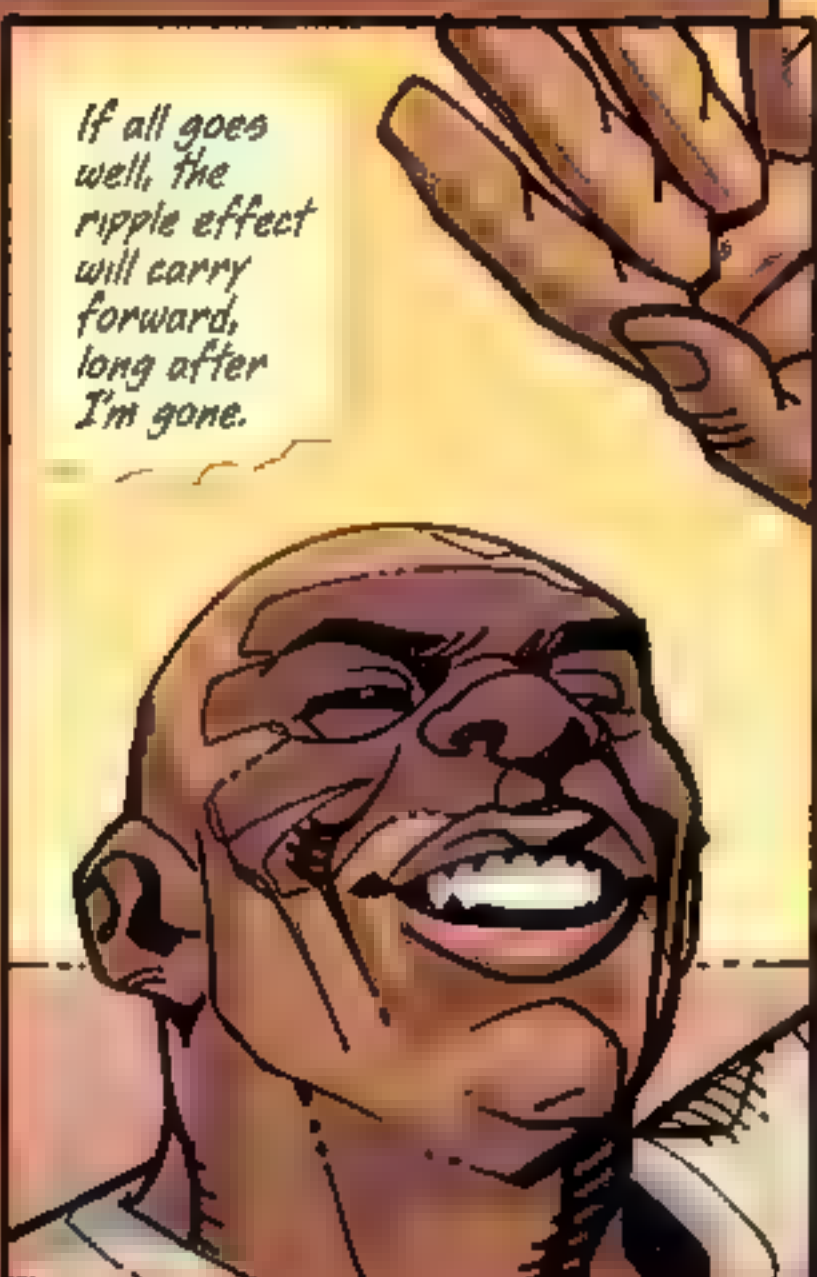


In another month or so, we should have the whole village done. Then I'll move on to some other part of the world.

Although, to be honest, the ripples really extend back to the person who inspired me.



Meanwhile, the Anangu will use what they've learned to train people in the neighboring villages too.



If all goes well, the ripple effect will carry forward, long after I'm gone.

*I wonder...maybe that's the mark
of a superhero: Not just incredible
powers or saving the day, but the
effect you have on other people.*





--UNLIKE YOU.

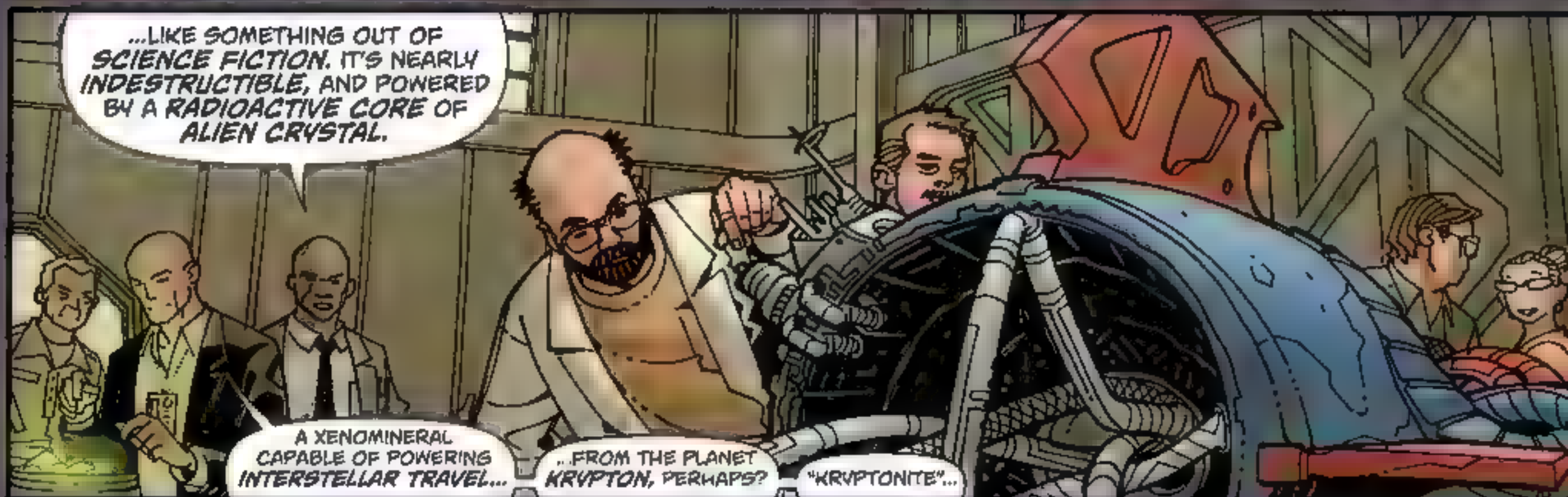
MISTER LUTHOR!



I DO NOT APPRECIATE CARELESSNESS WITH MY PROPERTY, ABERNATHY. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PROPERTY WAS SO DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.



...SUBJECT OF DECADES OF RESEARCH. I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT ANYTHING YOU SEE IS TOP SECRET.



...LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF SCIENCE FICTION. IT'S NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE, AND POWERED BY A RADIOACTIVE CORE OF ALIEN CRYSTAL.

A XENOMINERAL CAPABLE OF POWERING INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL...

...FROM THE PLANET KRYPTON, PERHAPS?

"KRYPTONITE"...



PLEASE STEP BACK, SIR. SPECIAL CLEARANCE IS REQUIRED FOR PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ANY SPECIMENS.

OH, CERTAINLY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I COULD HAVE BEEN THINKING.



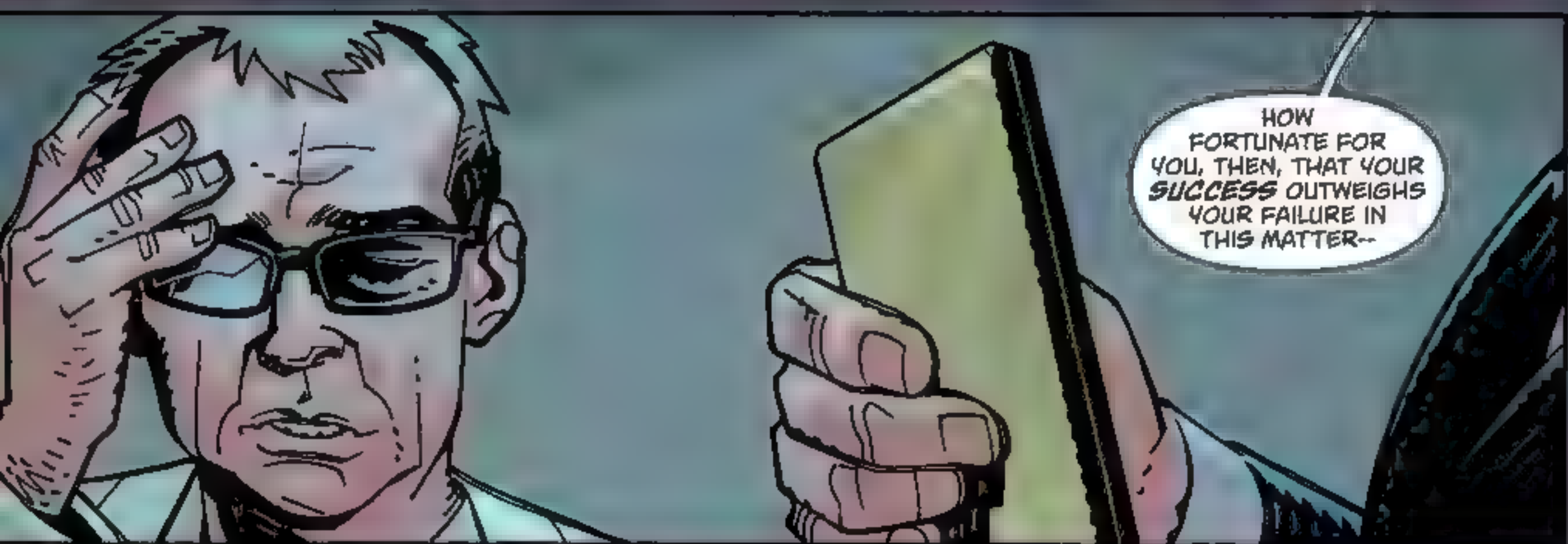
M-MISTER LUTHOR...?

I HAVE LITTLE TOLERANCE FOR FAILURE, ABERNATHY.



YOUR INCOMPETENCE HAS COST ME A LABORATORY, MY K-MAN IS IN CUSTODY...

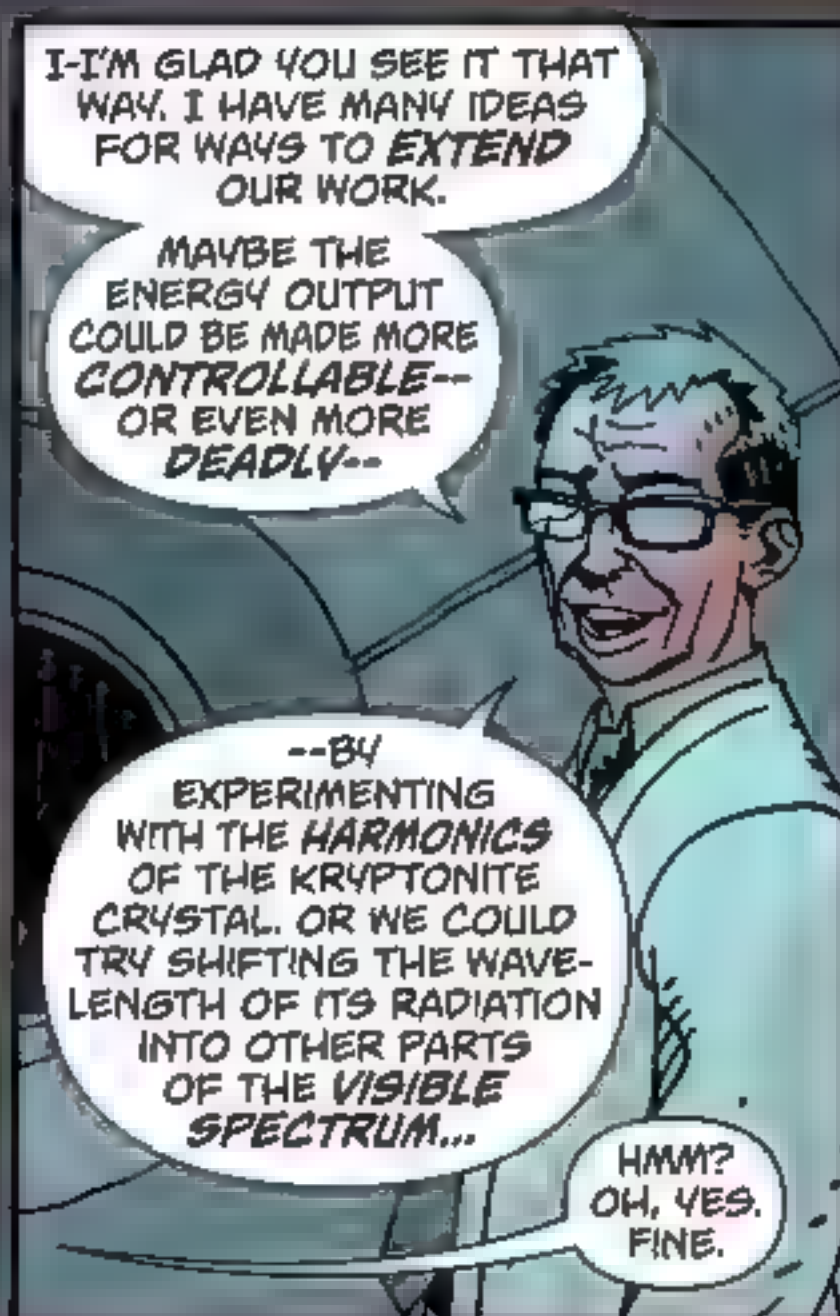
I...I CAN EXPLAIN...



HOW FORTUNATE FOR YOU, THEN, THAT YOUR **SUCCESS** OUTWEIGHS YOUR FAILURE IN THIS MATTER--



--BECAUSE, DESPITE EVERYTHING, YOU BUMBLED INTO UNCOVERING SUPERMAN'S WEAKNESS.



I-I'M GLAD YOU SEE IT THAT WAY. I HAVE MANY IDEAS FOR WAYS TO **EXTEND** OUR WORK.

MAYBE THE ENERGY OUTPUT COULD BE MADE MORE **CONTROLLABLE**--OR EVEN MORE **DEADLY**--

--BY EXPERIMENTING WITH THE **HARMONICS** OF THE KRYPTONITE CRYSTAL. OR WE COULD TRY SHIFTING THE WAVELENGTH OF ITS RADIATION INTO OTHER PARTS OF THE **VISIBLE SPECTRUM**...

HMM? OH, YES. FINE.



BUT THE **IMPORTANT** POINT REMAINS: WE NOW KNOW THAT K-RADIATION CAN **HURT**, OR PERHAPS EVEN **KILL** SUPERMAN...

"...WHICH RAISES
SOME FASCINATING
POSSIBILITIES..."

--and inspiring them
to never give up.

ONE DAY FROM NOW.

THOSE
MANACLES
ARE SOME KIND
OF CADMIUM-
IRIDIUM
ALLOY.

THE SCIENCE BOYS TELL ME THAT
THEY ACT LIKE **CONTROL RODS** TO
DAMPEN YOUR RADIATION AND
NULLIFY YOUR POWER.

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

AT LEAST, NOT
WITHOUT MY
SAY-SO.

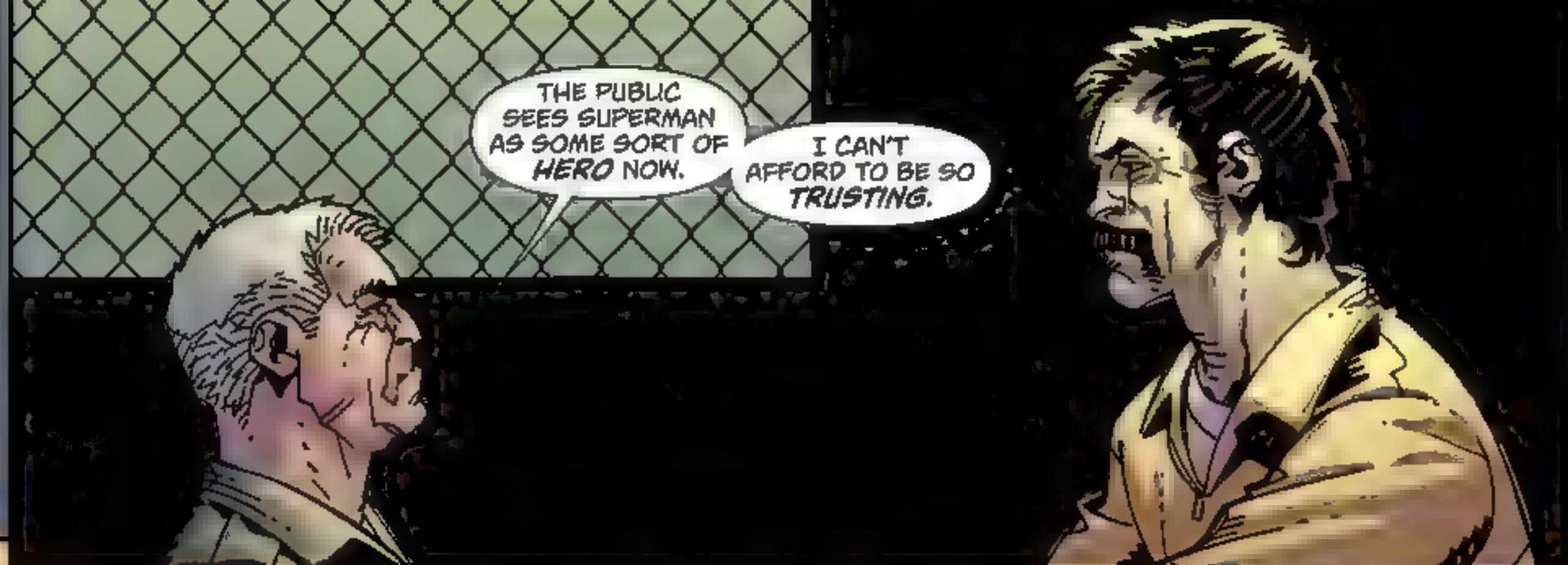
**GENERAL
SAMUEL LANE.**
U.S. ARMY.

WELL THEN,
MAYBE WE CAN
HELP EACH
OTHER.

THERE'S
KRYPTONITE IN
THIS BUILDING
SOMEWHERE...

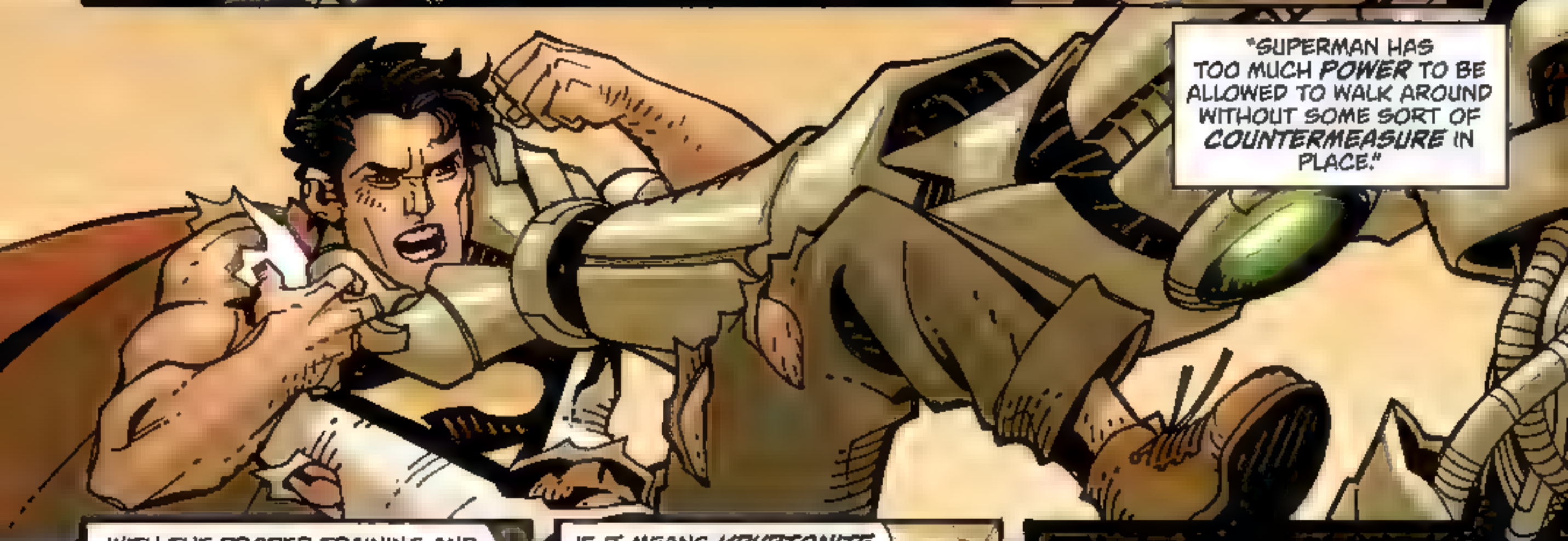
I CAN
SENSE
IT...

I
NEED
IT.



THE PUBLIC
SEES SUPERMAN
AS SOME SORT OF
HERO NOW.

I CAN'T
AFFORD TO BE SO
TRUSTING.



"SUPERMAN HAS
TOO MUCH **POWER** TO BE
ALLOWED TO WALK AROUND
WITHOUT SOME SORT OF
COUNTERMEASURE IN
PLACE."



WITH THE PROPER TRAINING AND
DISCIPLINE, I BELIEVE **YOU** COULD
BE THAT COUNTERMEASURE.

INTERESTED?

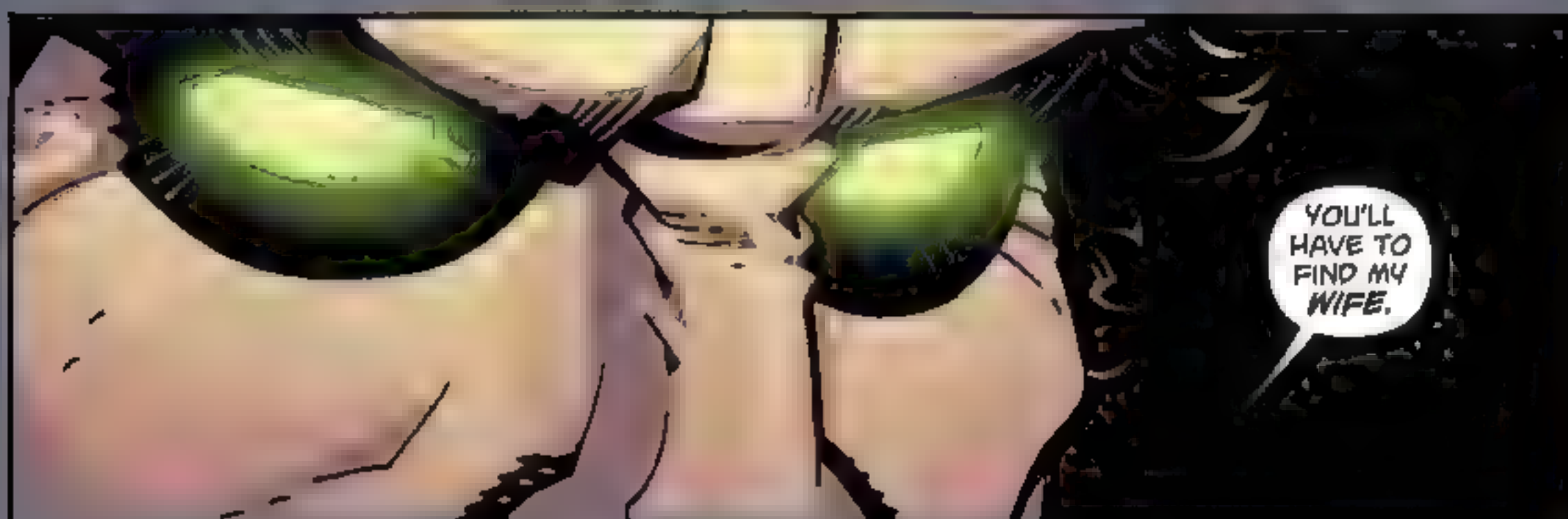


IF IT MEANS **KRYPTONITE**
AND A CHANCE TO KILL
SUPERMAN, THEN
YEAH--I'M IN.

BUT ONLY
IF YOU DO
SOMETHING
FOR ME
FIRST.

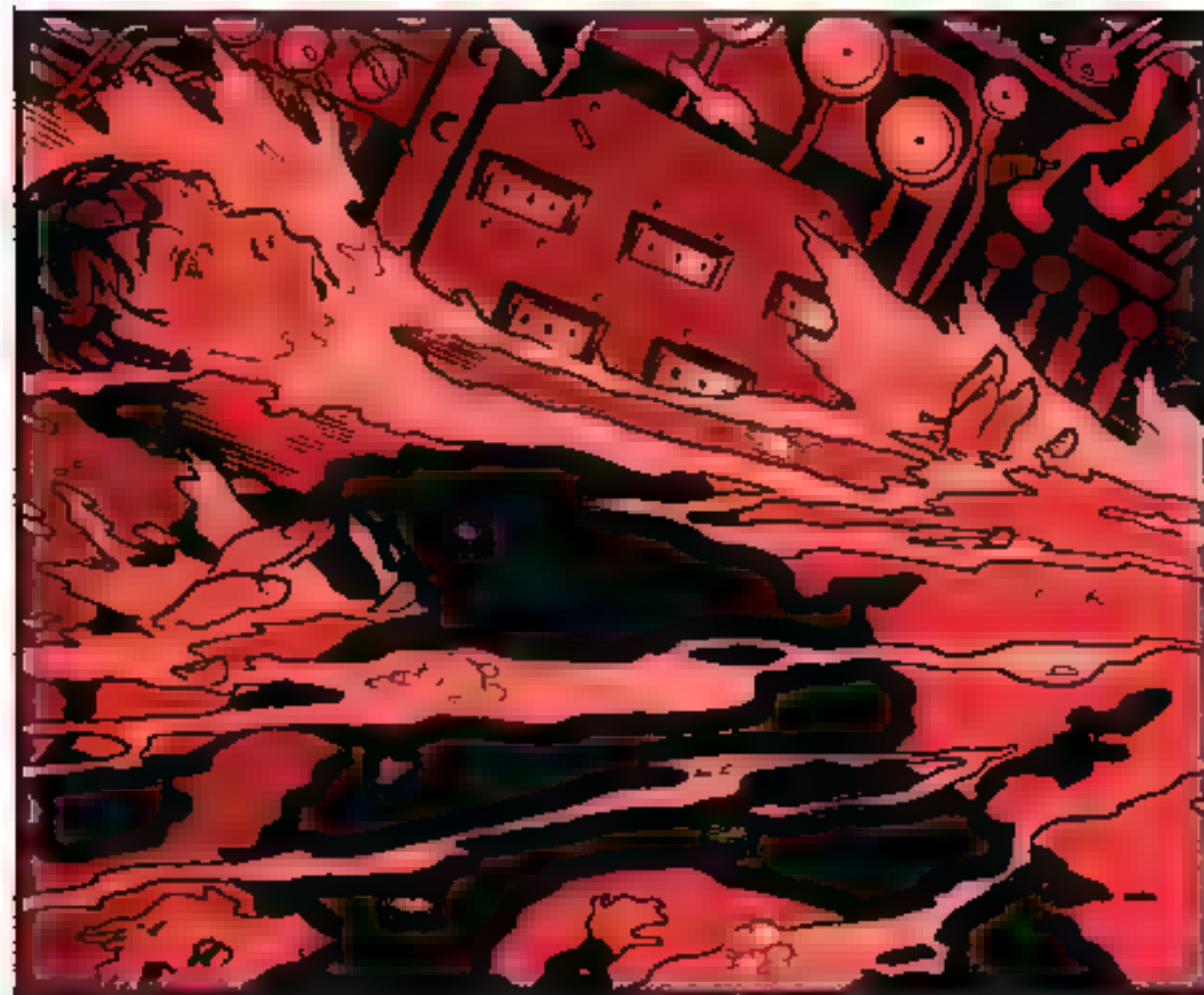
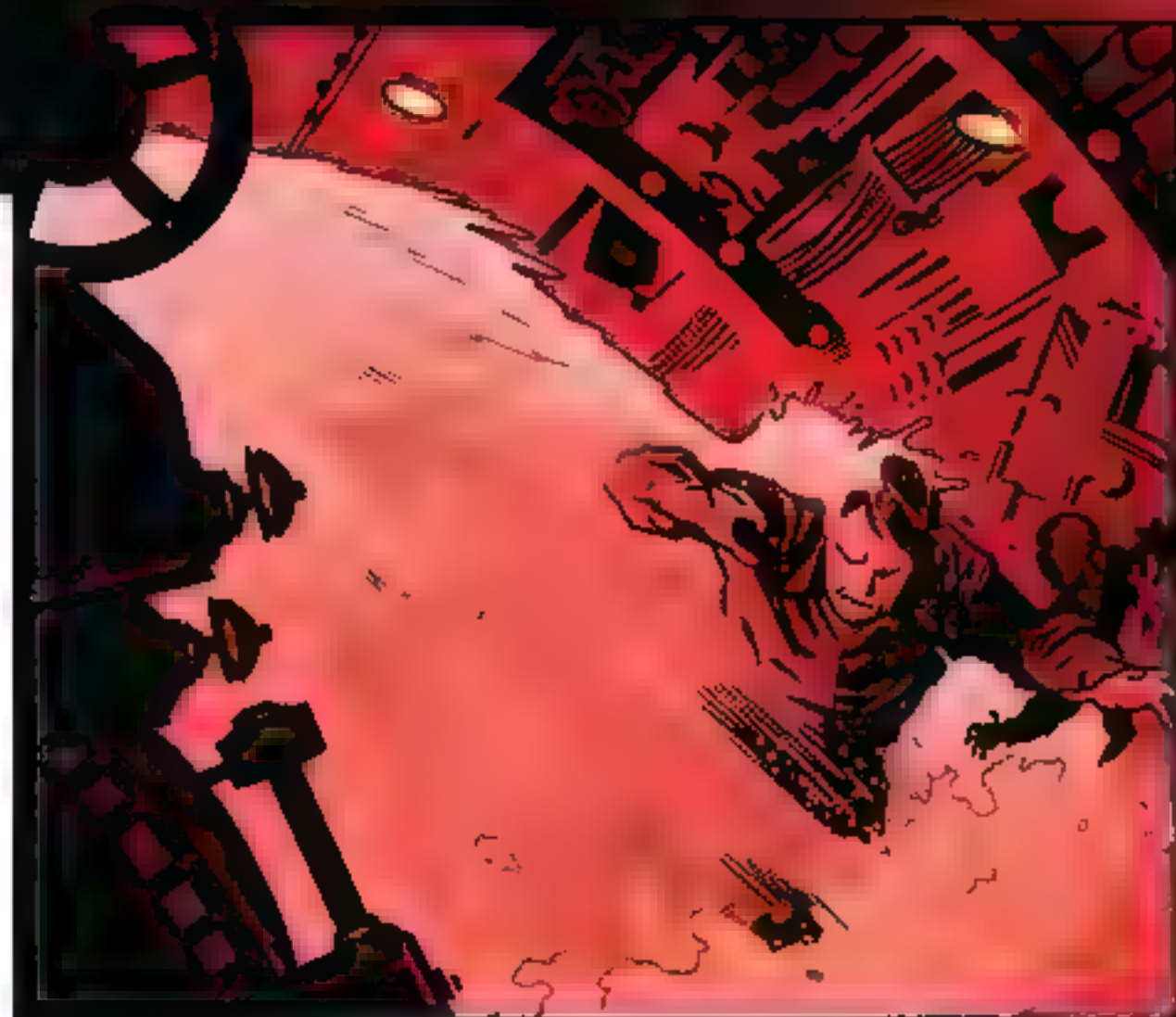


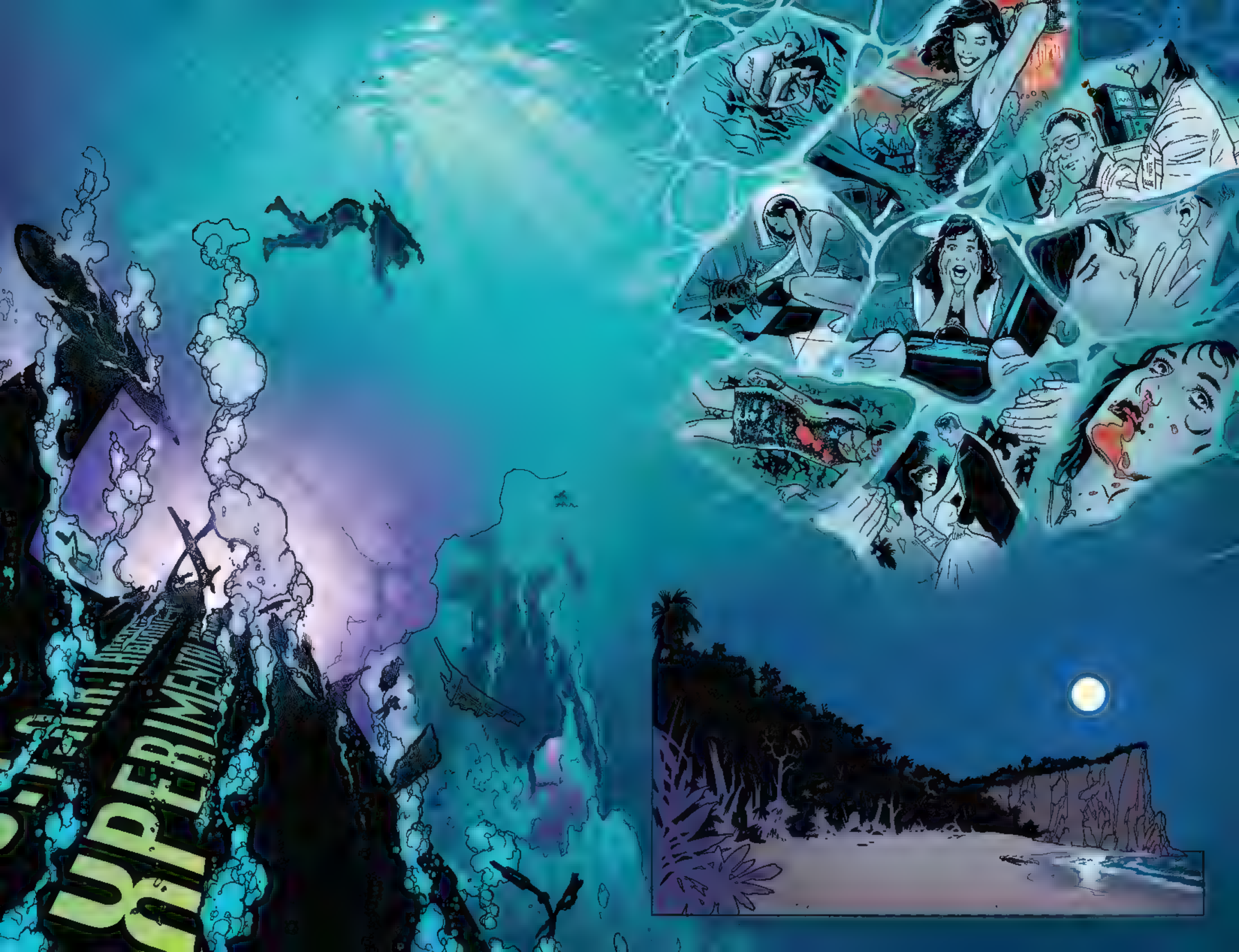
OH?
WHAT'S
THAT?

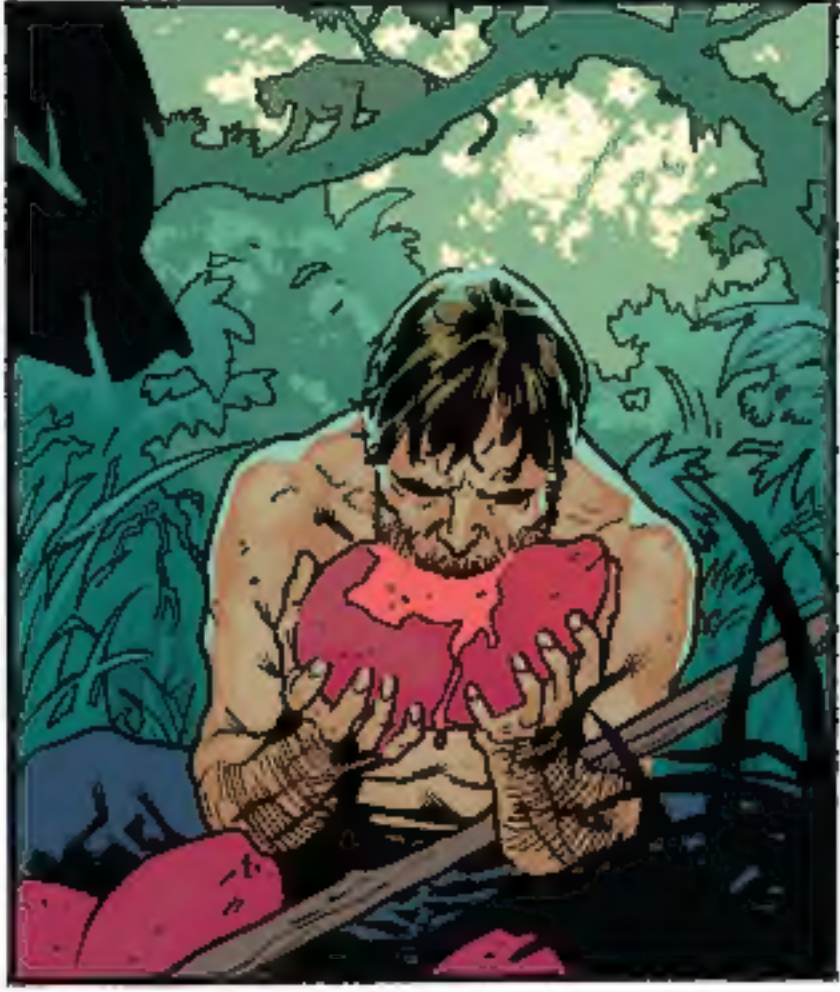
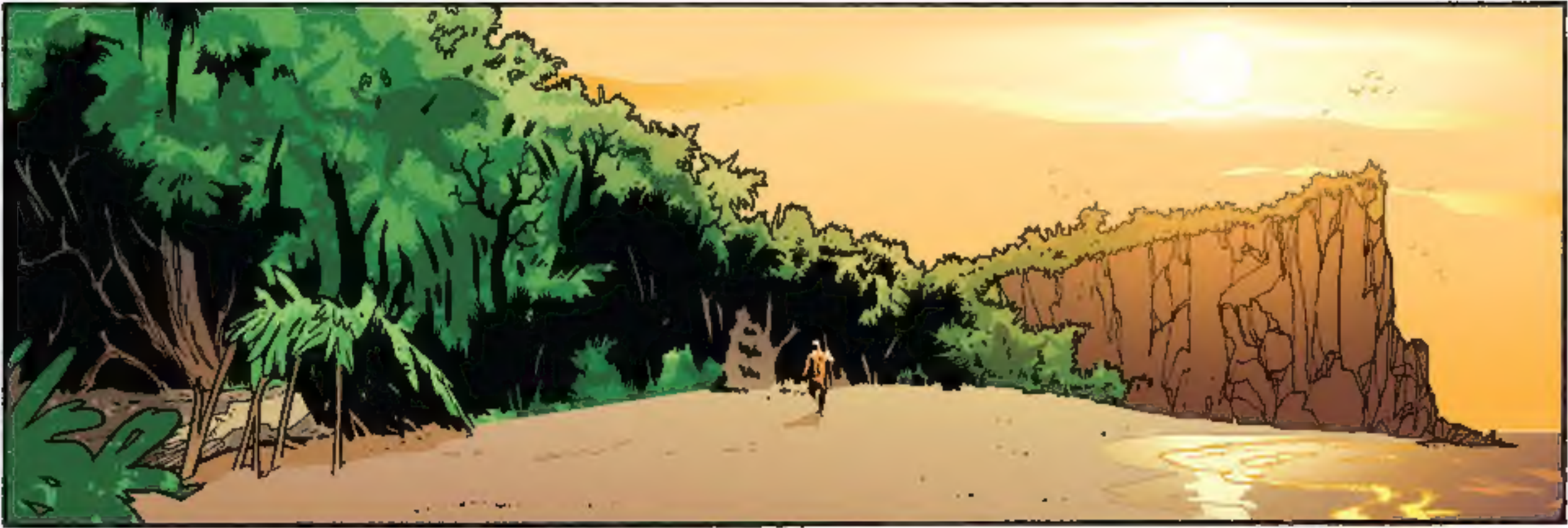


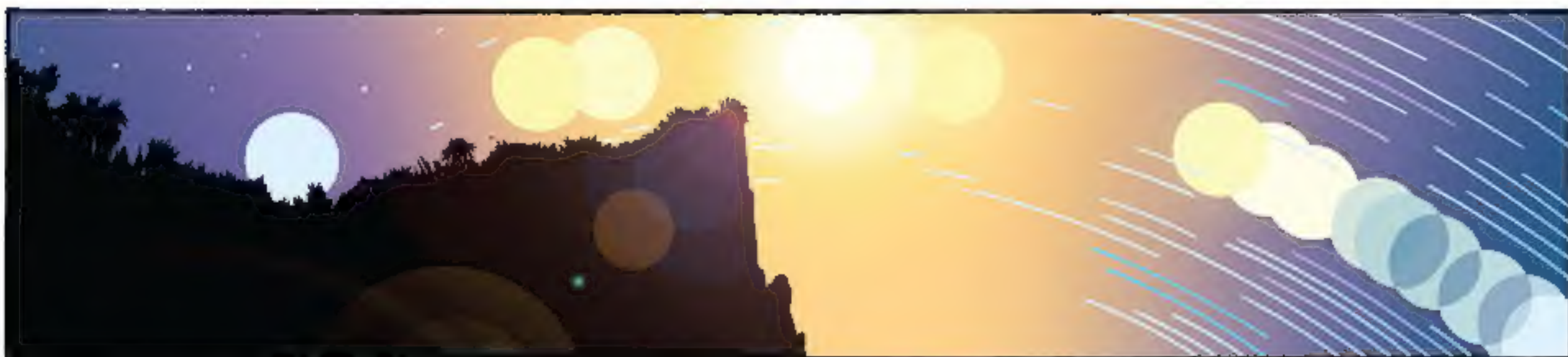
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
FIND MY
WIFE.

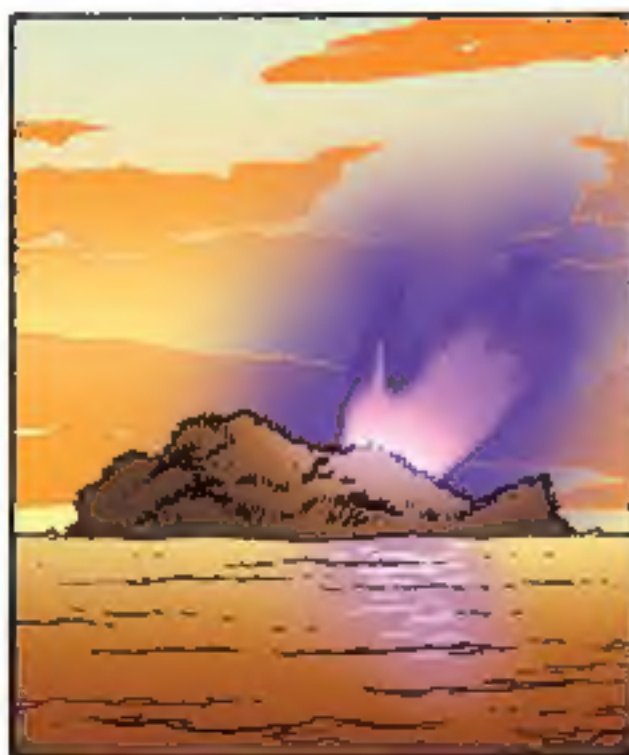
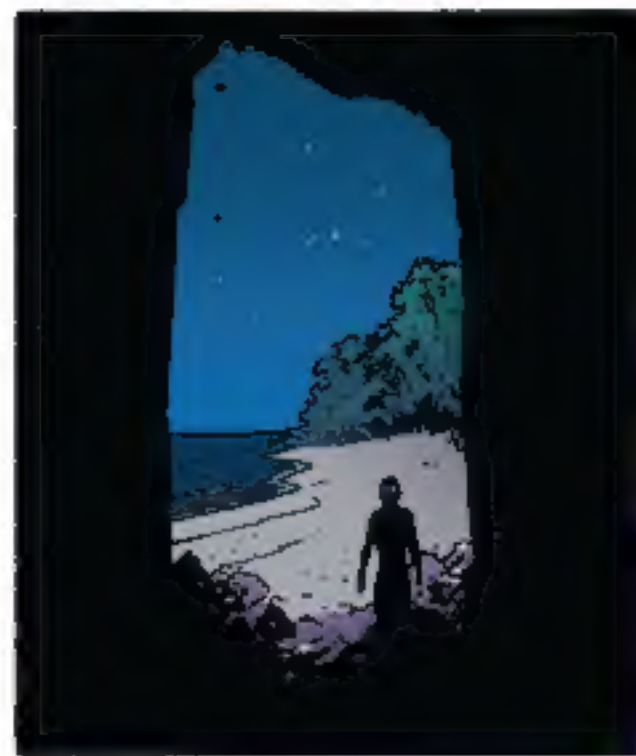
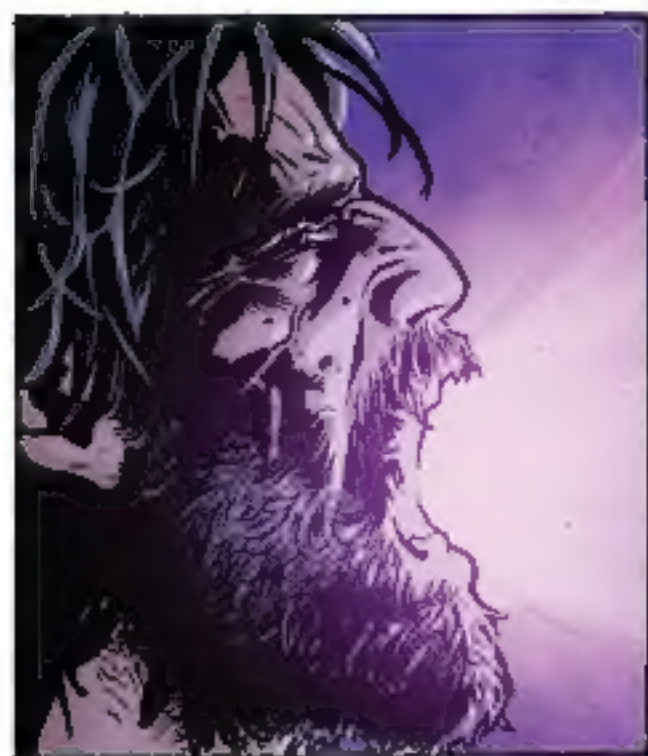
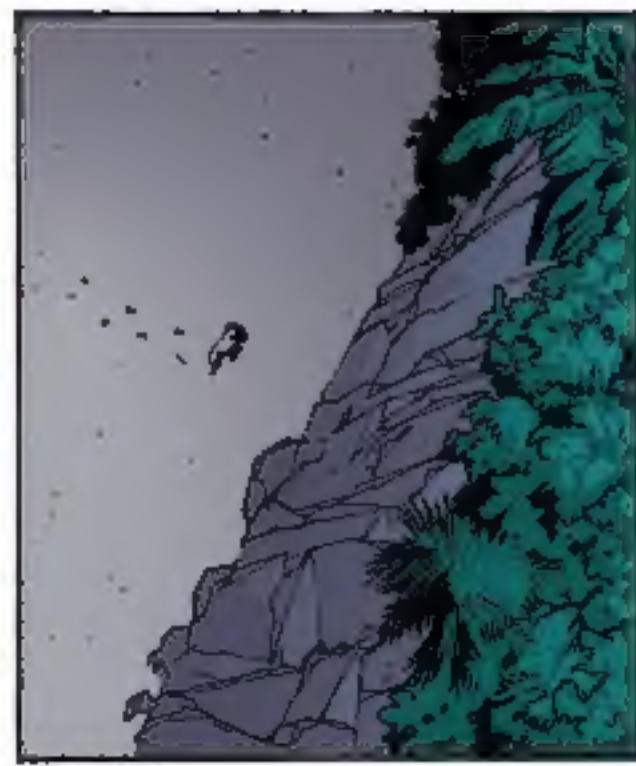
END

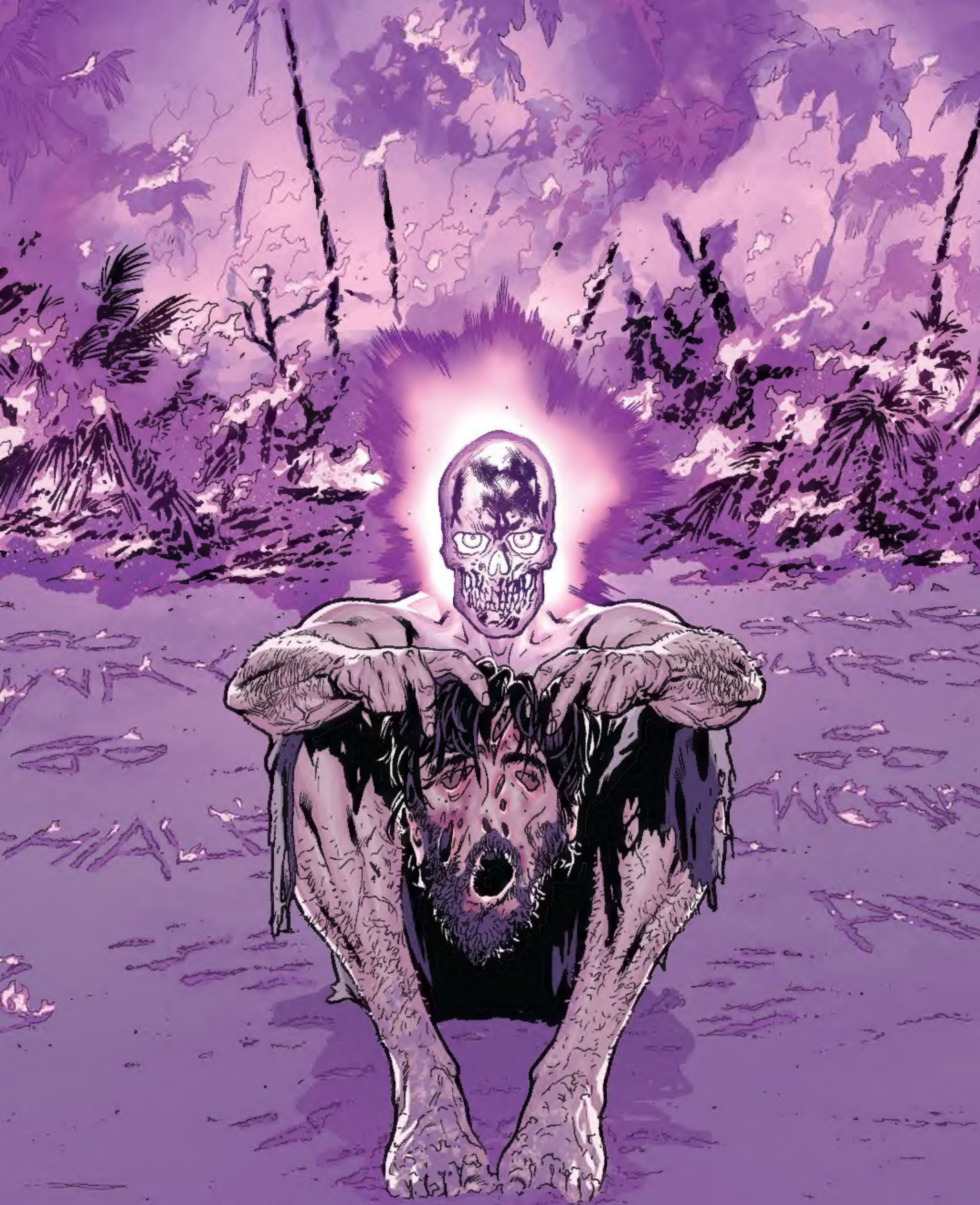












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LOOK FOR MORE ON THE ATOMIC SKULL IN 2013!